X

CLAMP

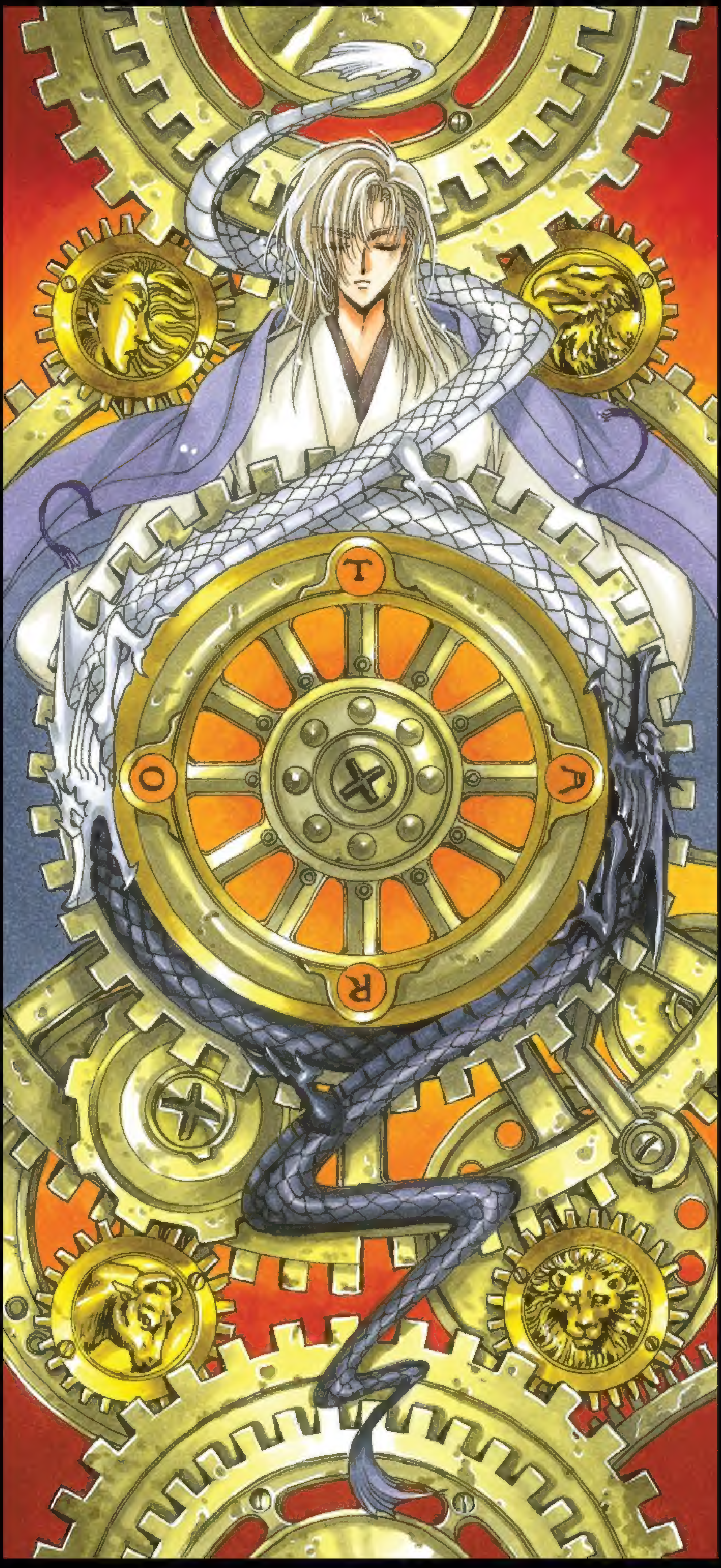
IV 3•IN•1

X

VOLUME 4, PART 1

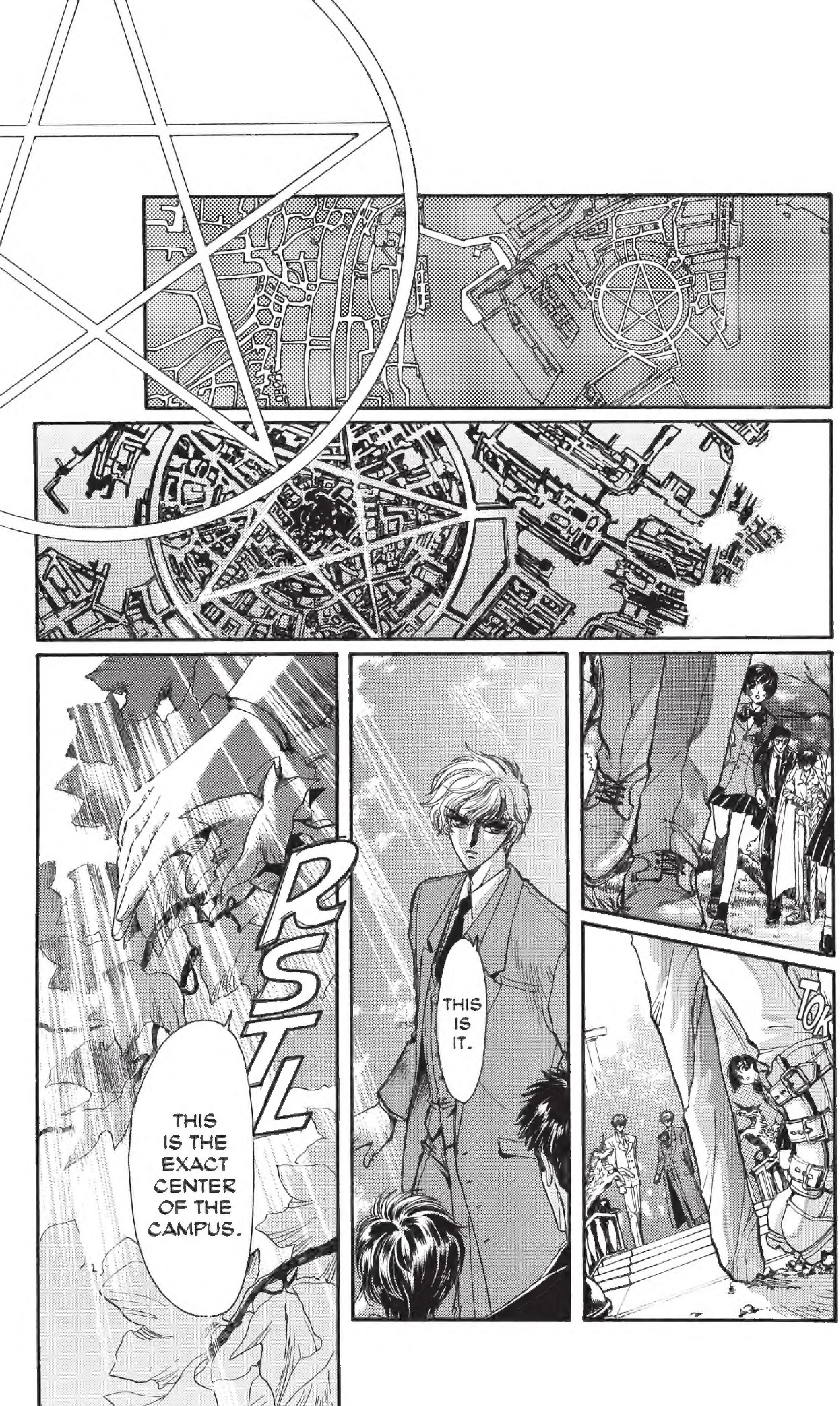
DREAMGAZING

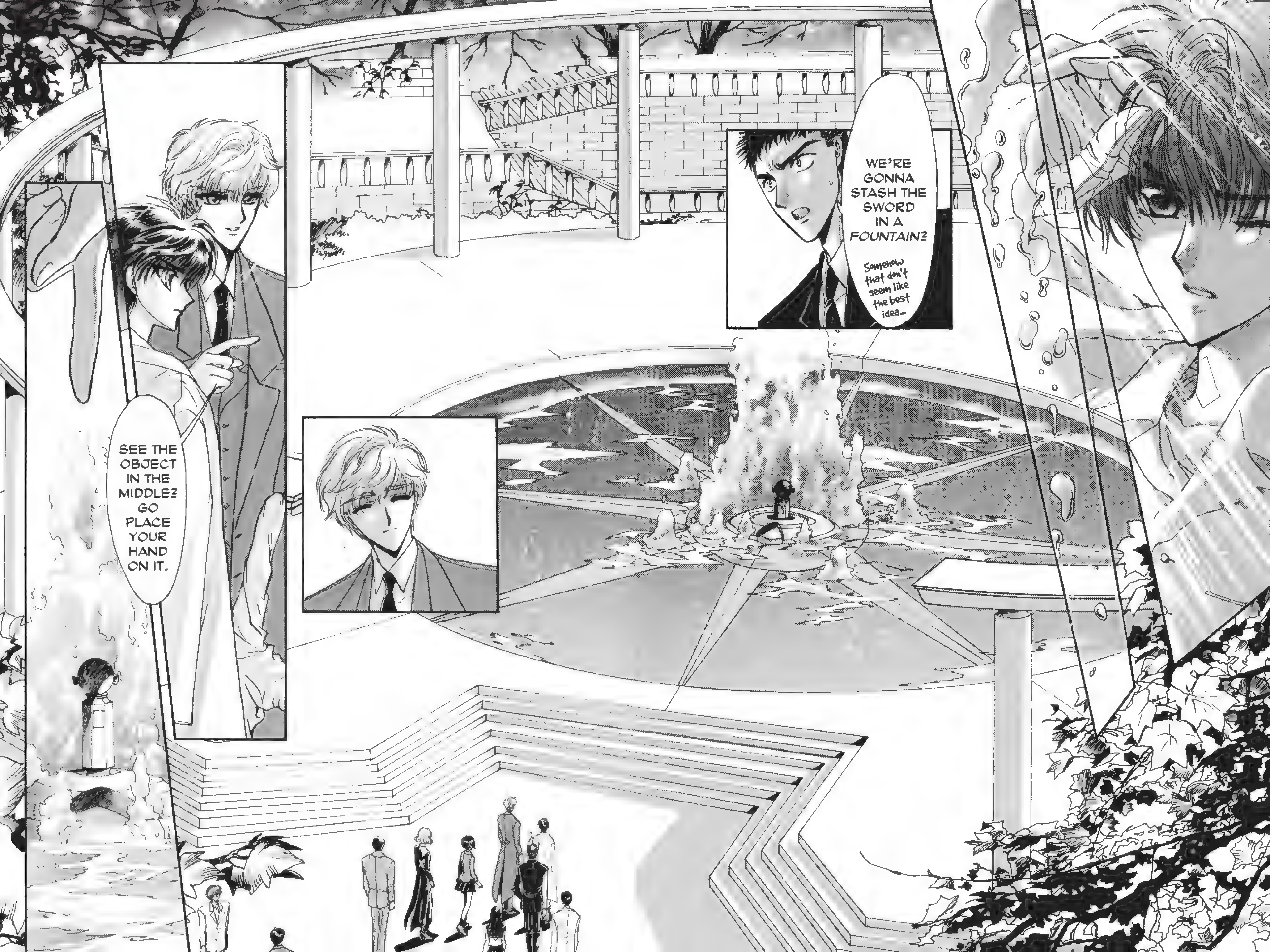
X

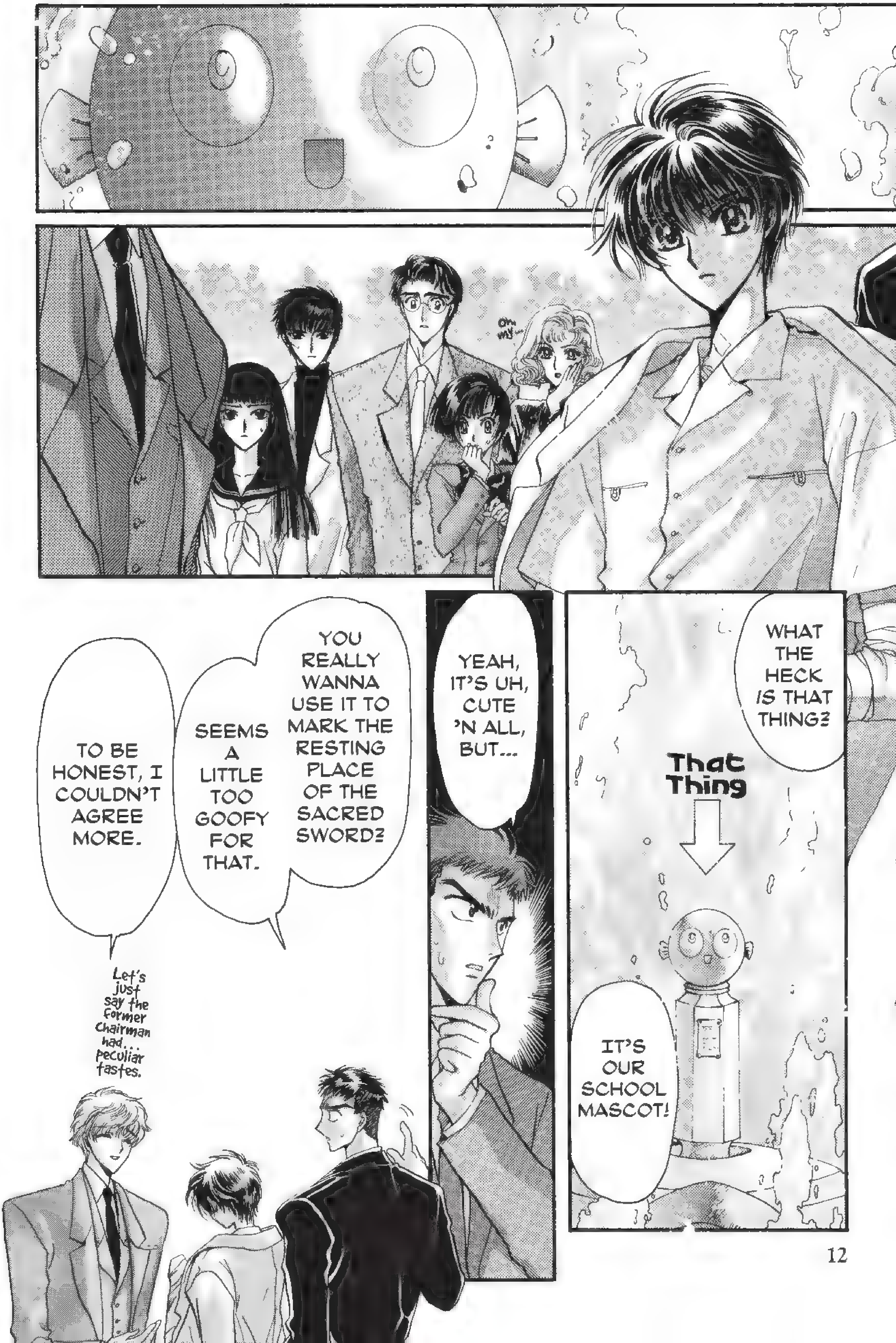


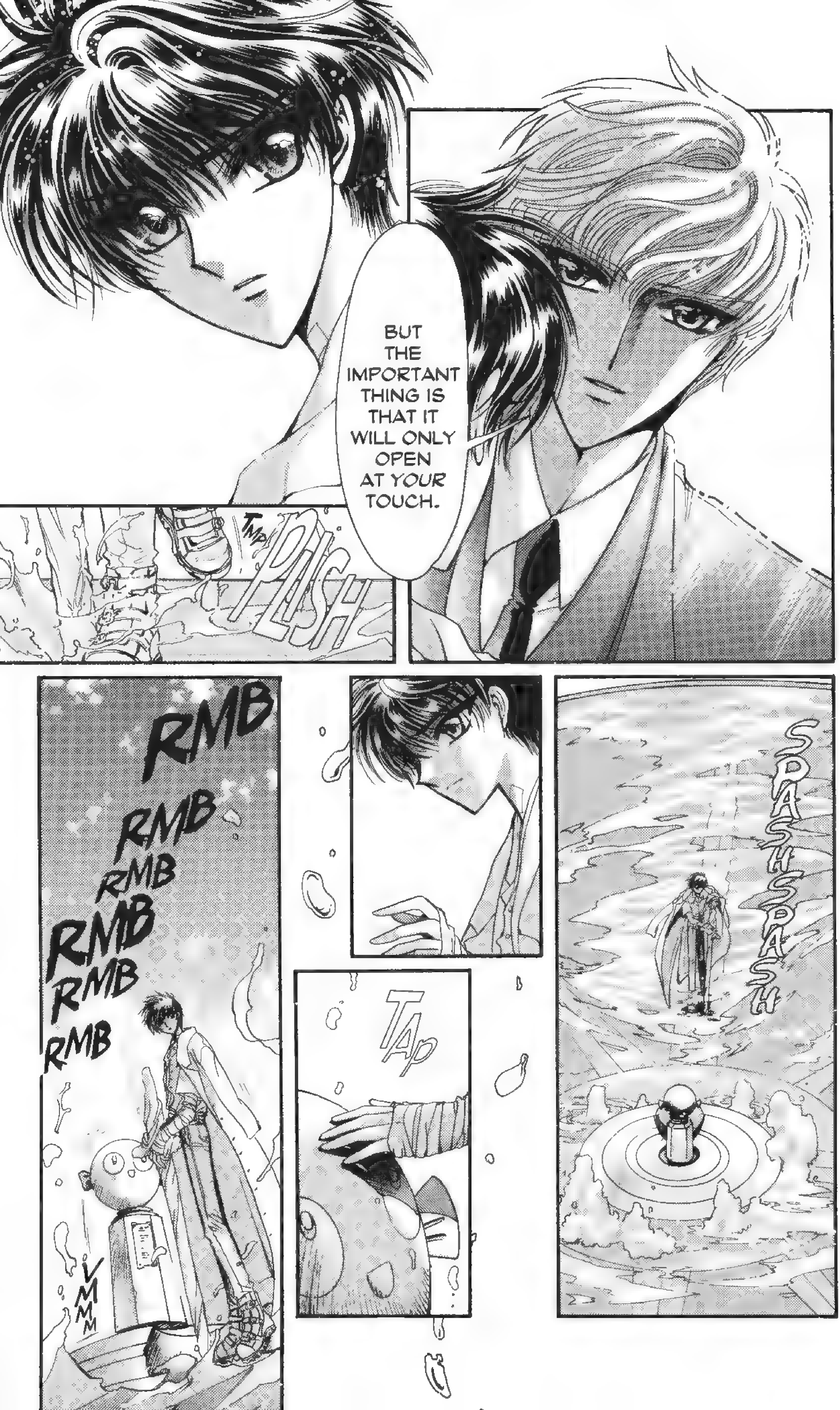
10 THE WHEEL OF FORTUNE

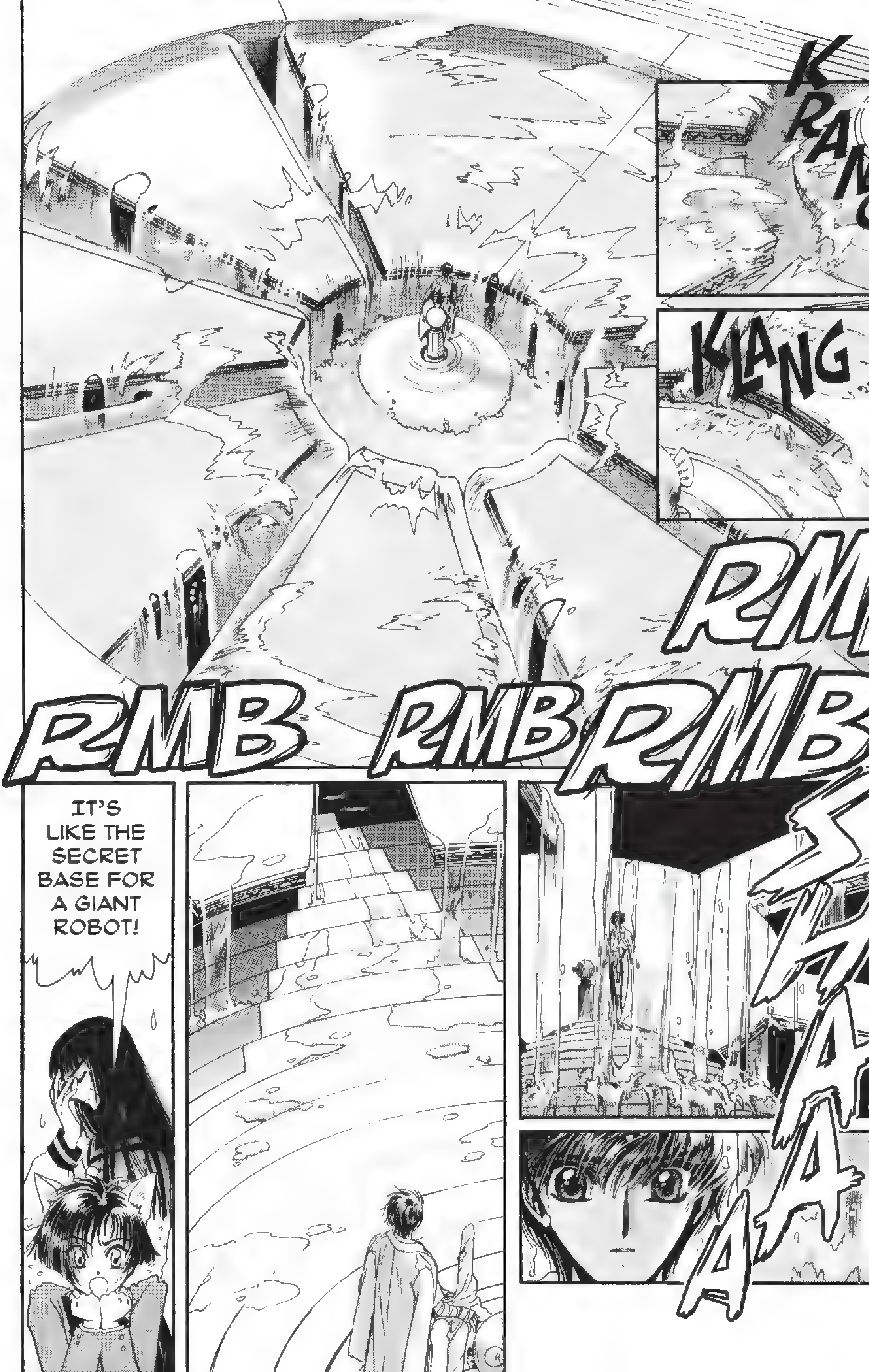
כ

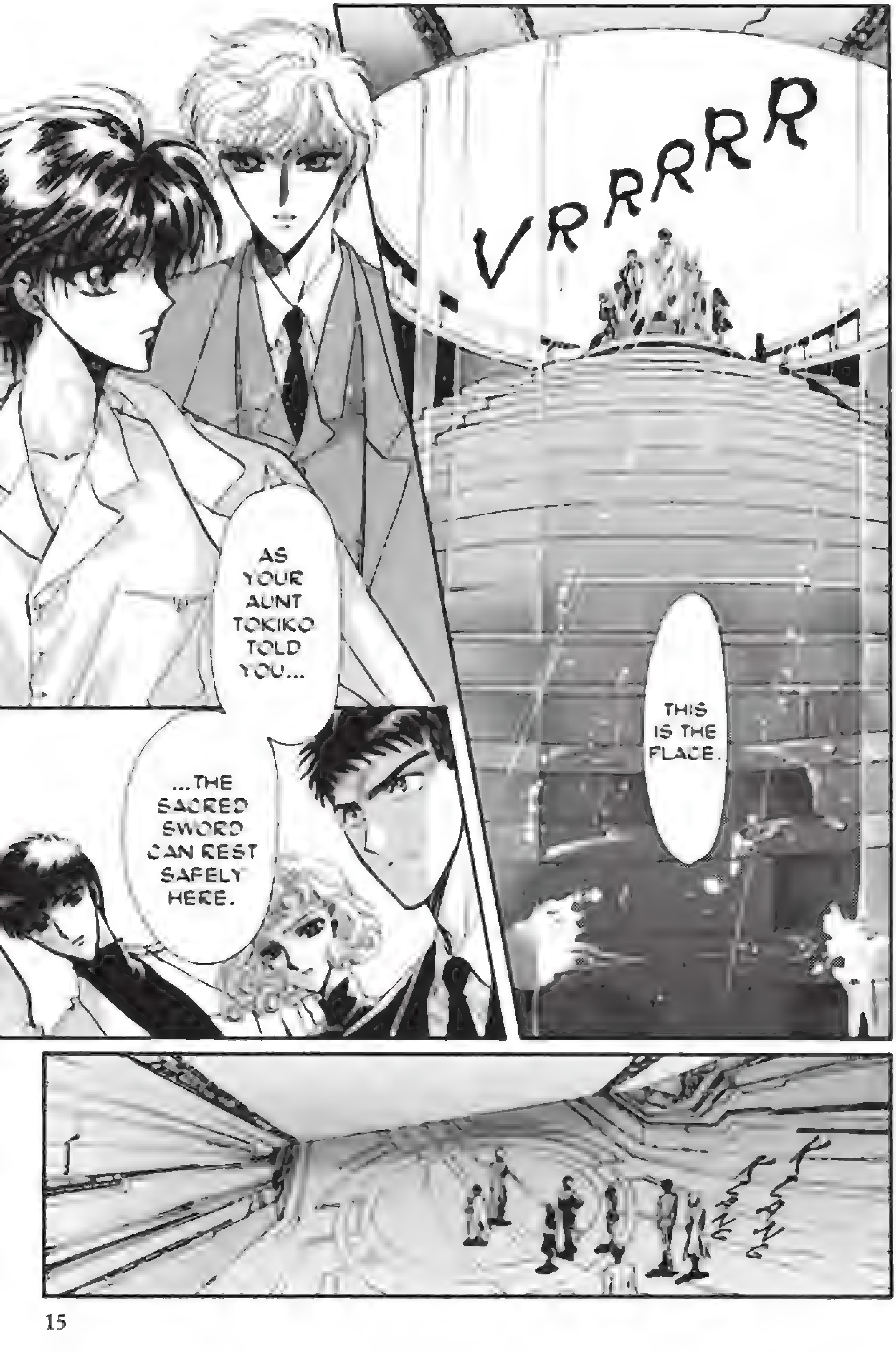

TOK
THIS IS IT.
RSTL
THIS IS THE EXACT CENTER OF THE CAMPUS.

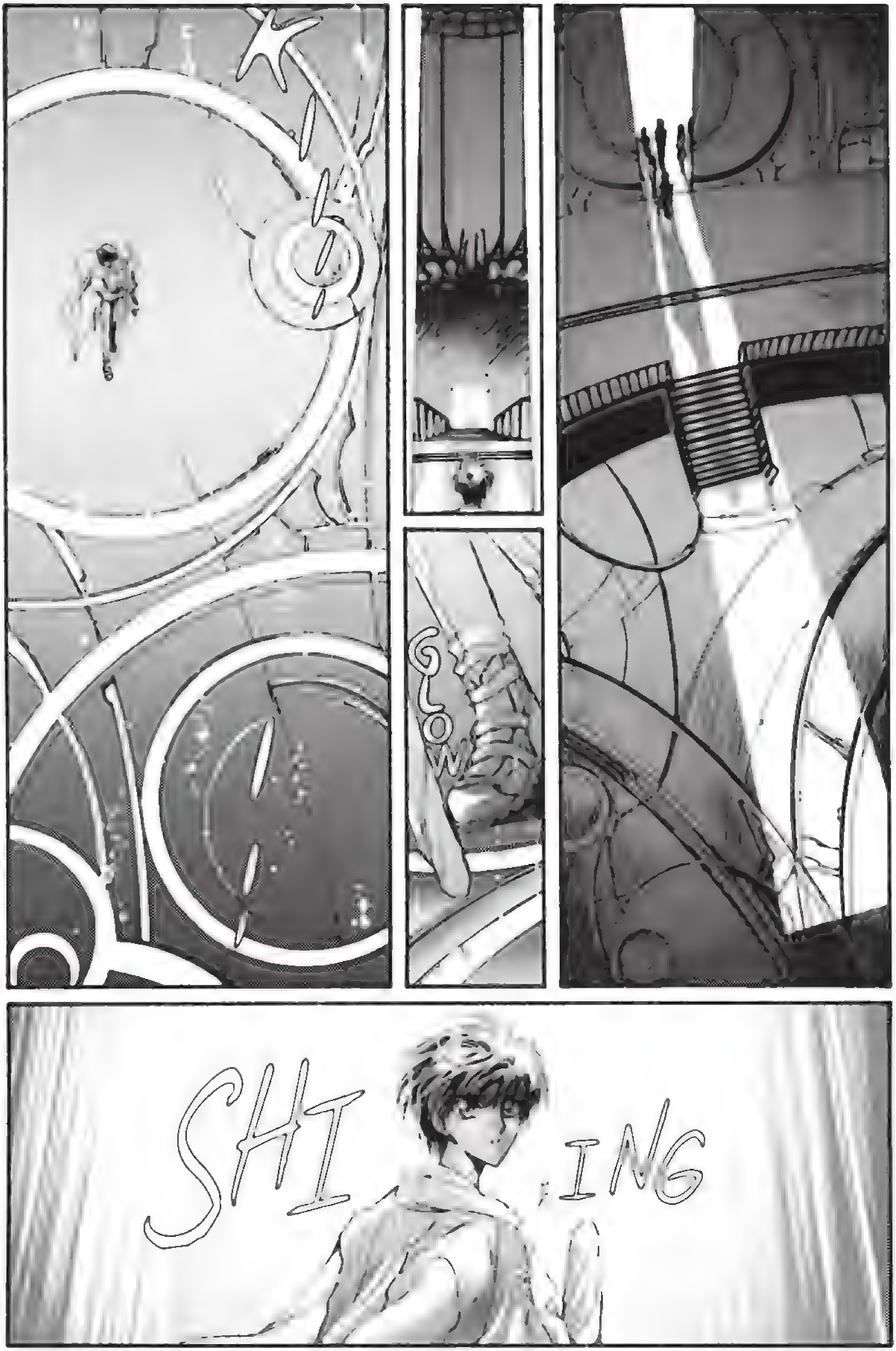

WE'RE GONNA STASH THE SWORD IN A FOUNTAIN?
Somehow that don't seem like the best idea...
SEE THE OBJECT IN THE MIDDLE? GO PLACE YOUR HAND ON IT.

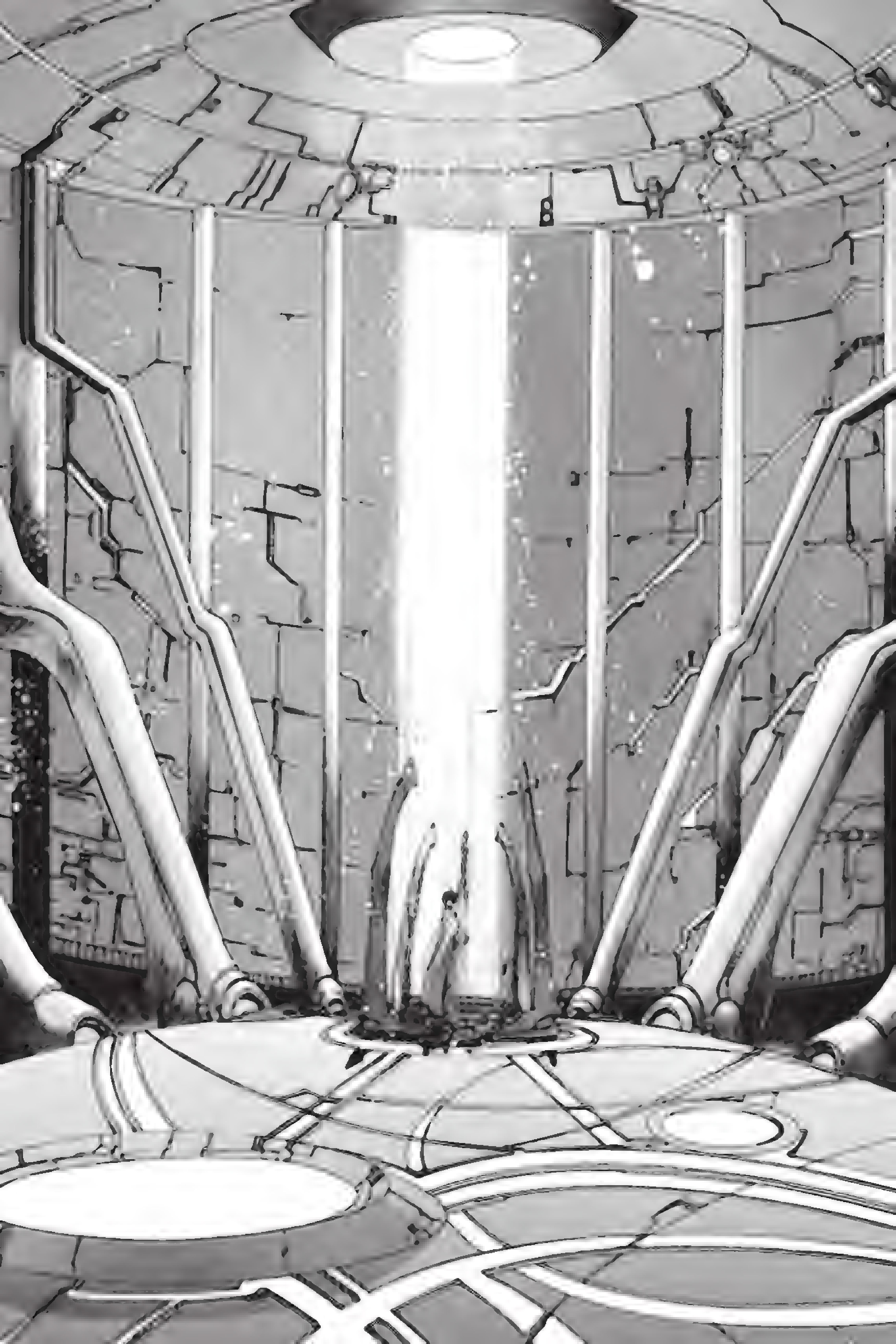

Oh my...
WHAT THE HECK IS THAT THING?
That Thing
IT'S OUR SCHOOL MASCOT!
YEAH, IT'S UH, CUTE 'N ALL, BUT...
YOU REALLY WANNA USE IT TO MARK THE RESTING PLACE OF THE SACRED SWORD?
SEEMS A LITTLE TOO GOOFY FOR THAT.
TO BE HONEST, I COULDN'T AGREE MORE.
Let's just say the former chairman had... peculiar tastes.

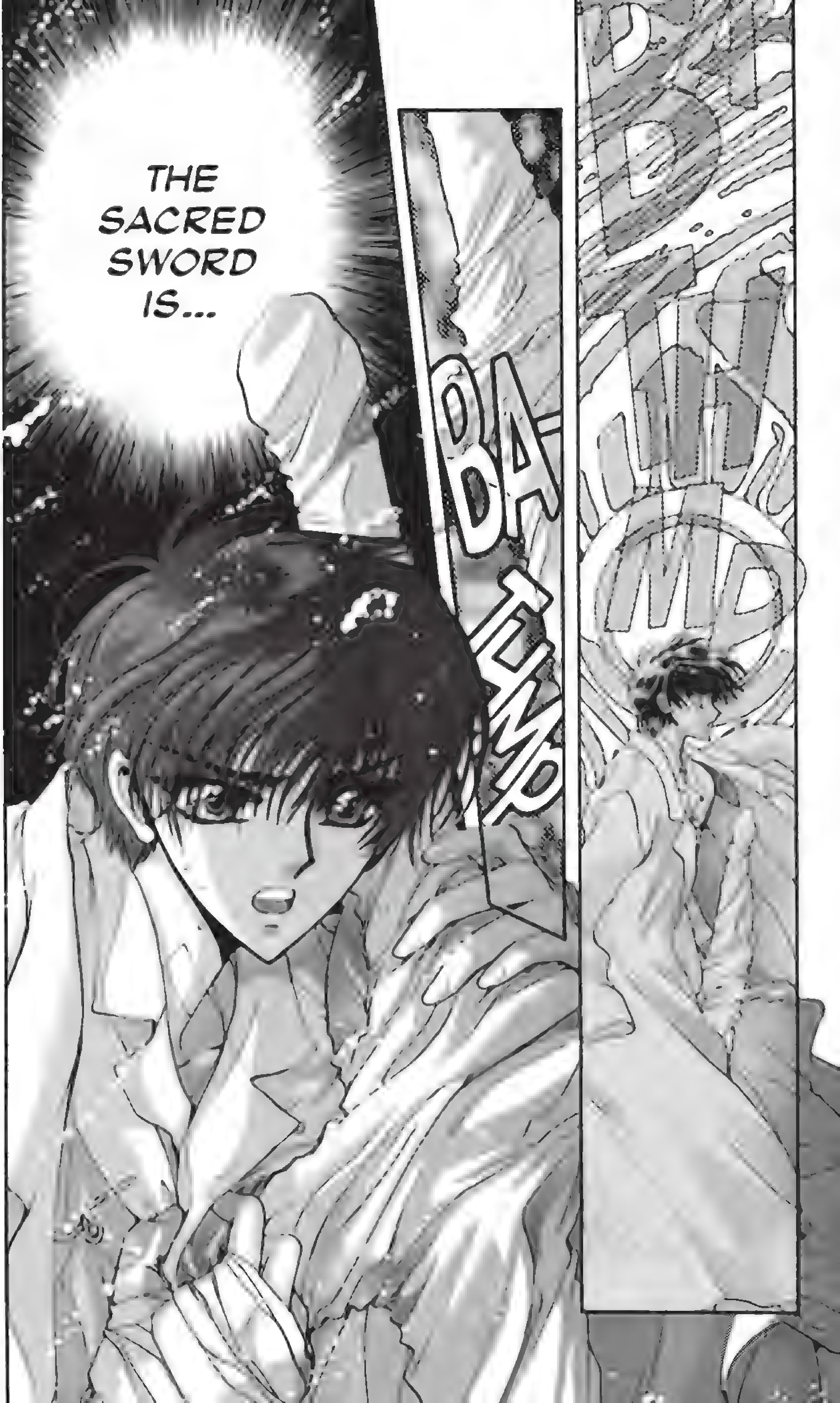

BUT THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT IT WILL ONLY OPEN AT *YOUR* TOUCH.
TMP
PLISH
SPASH SPASH
TAp
RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB RMB
VMMM

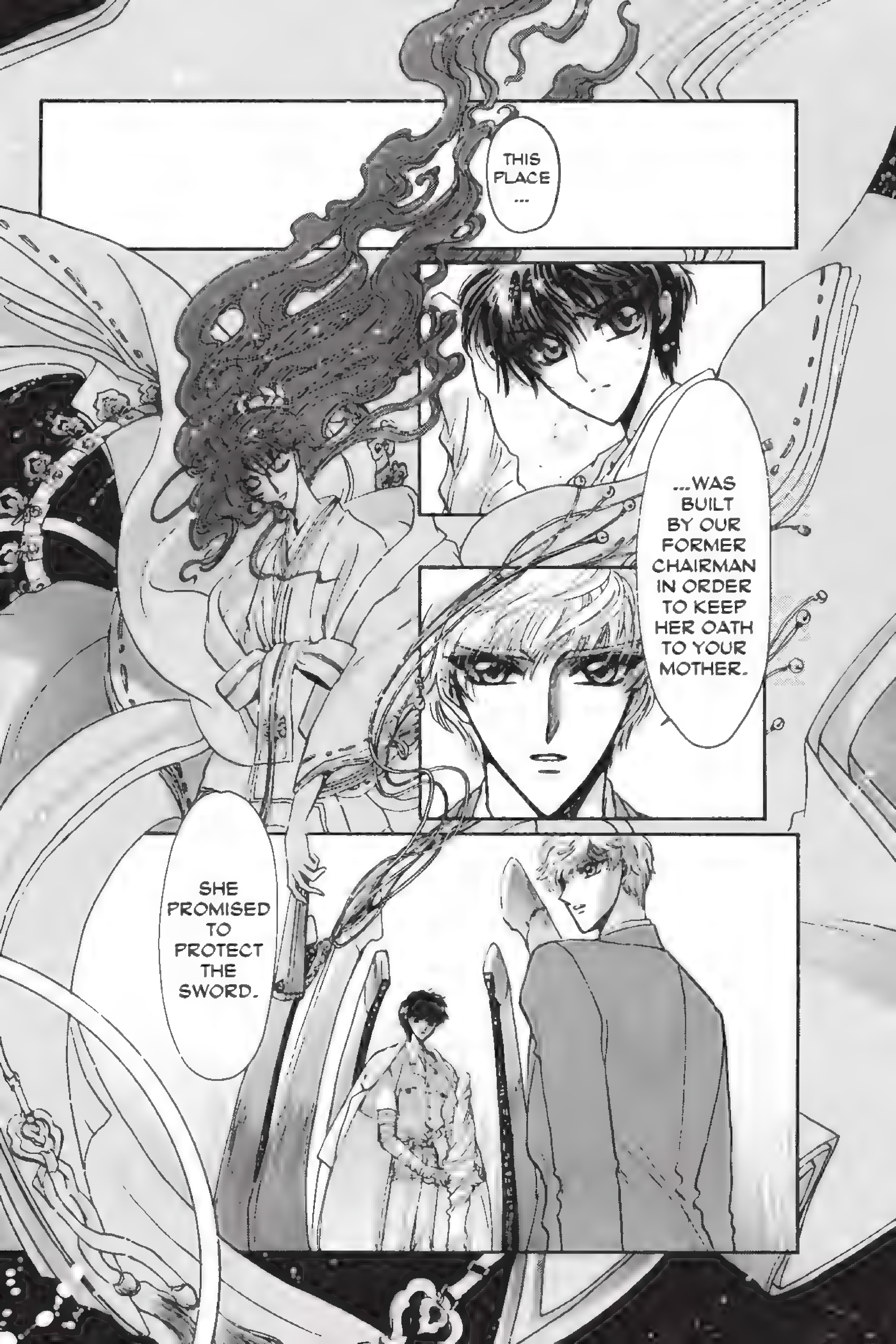

KRANG
KLANG
RMB
RMB RMB RMB
IT'S LIKE THE SECRET BASE FOR A GIANT ROBOT!
SHAAAAA

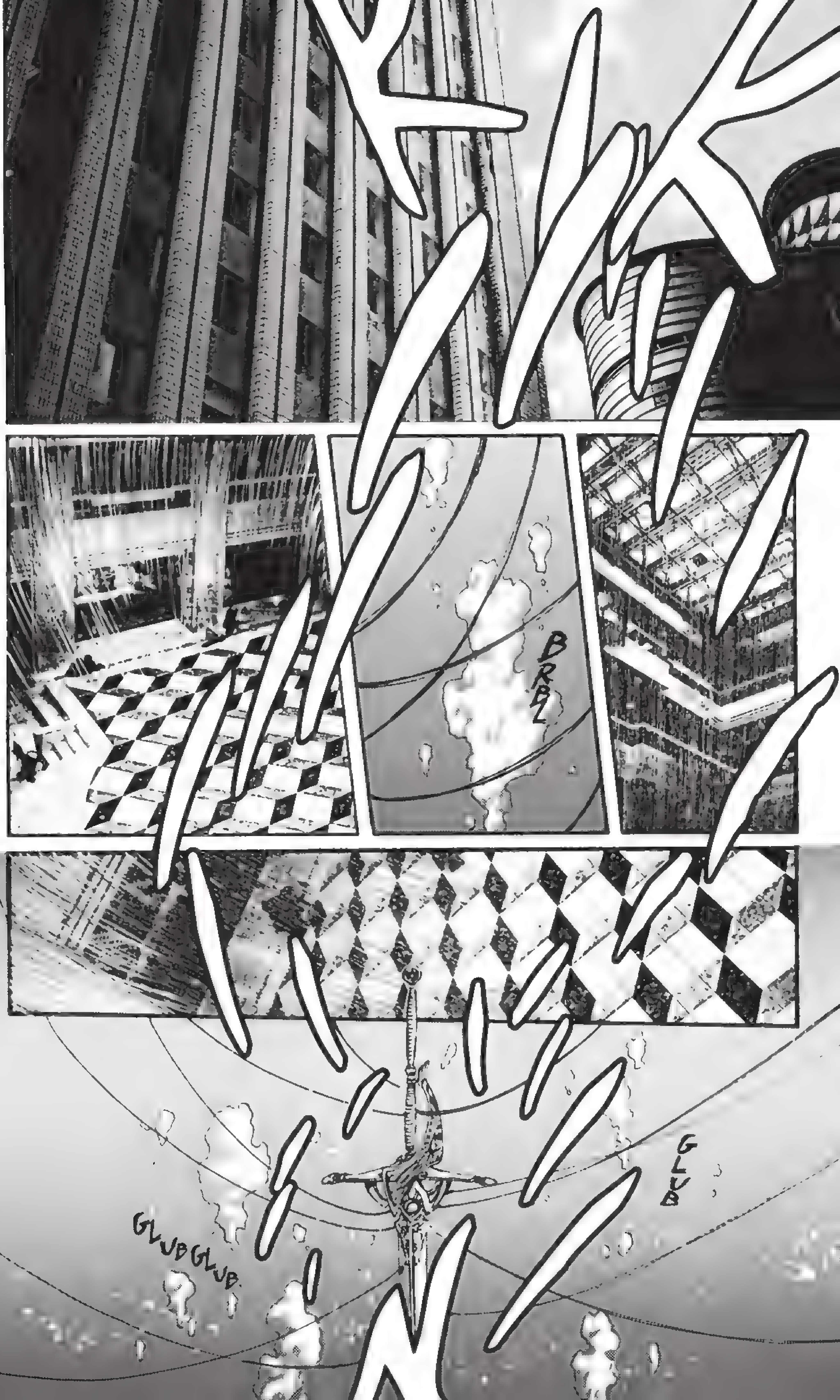

VRRRRR
THIS IS THE PLACE.
AS YOUR AUNT TOKIKO TOLD YOU...
...THE SACRED SWORD CAN REST SAFELY HERE.
KLANG
KLANG

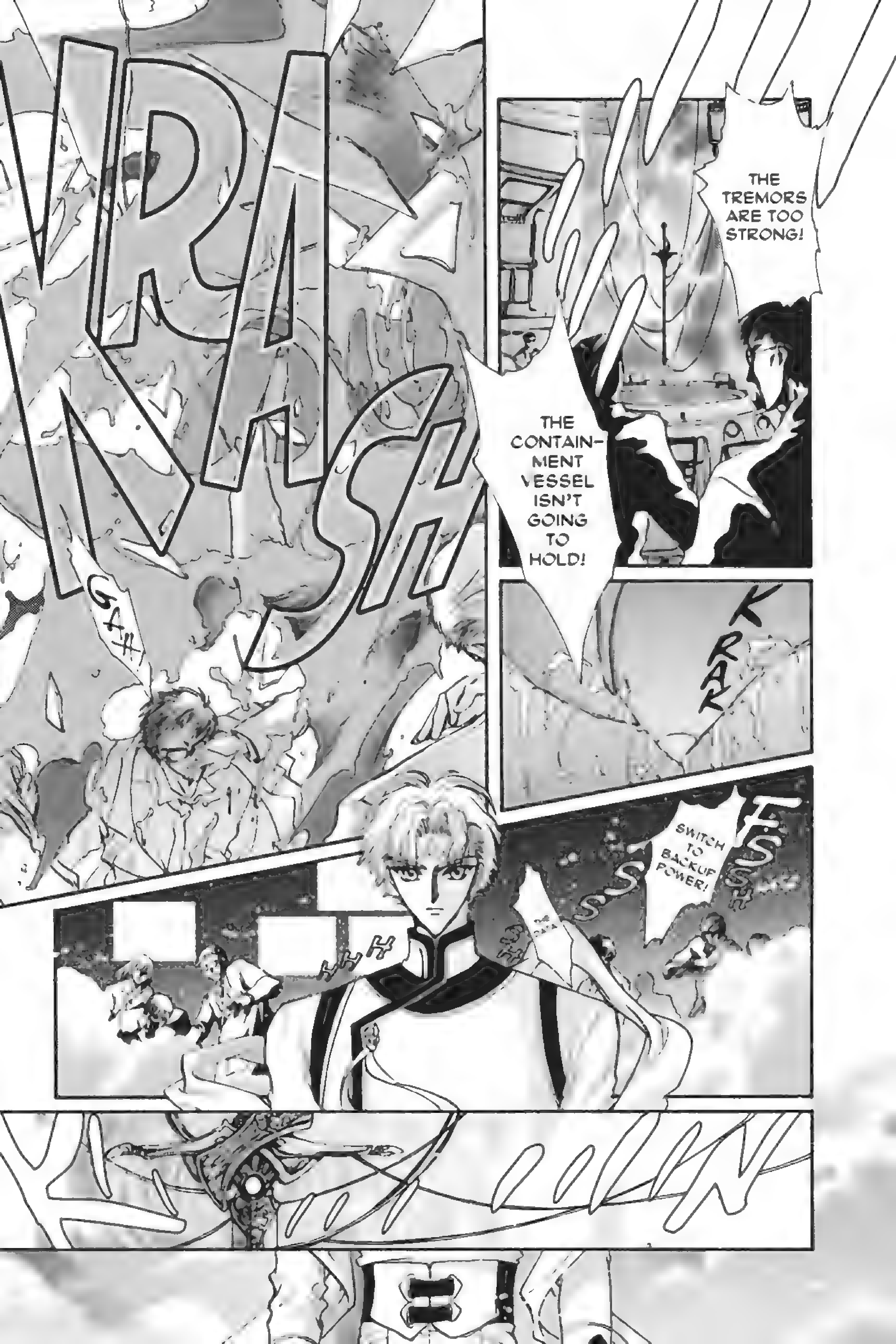

GLOW
SHI ING

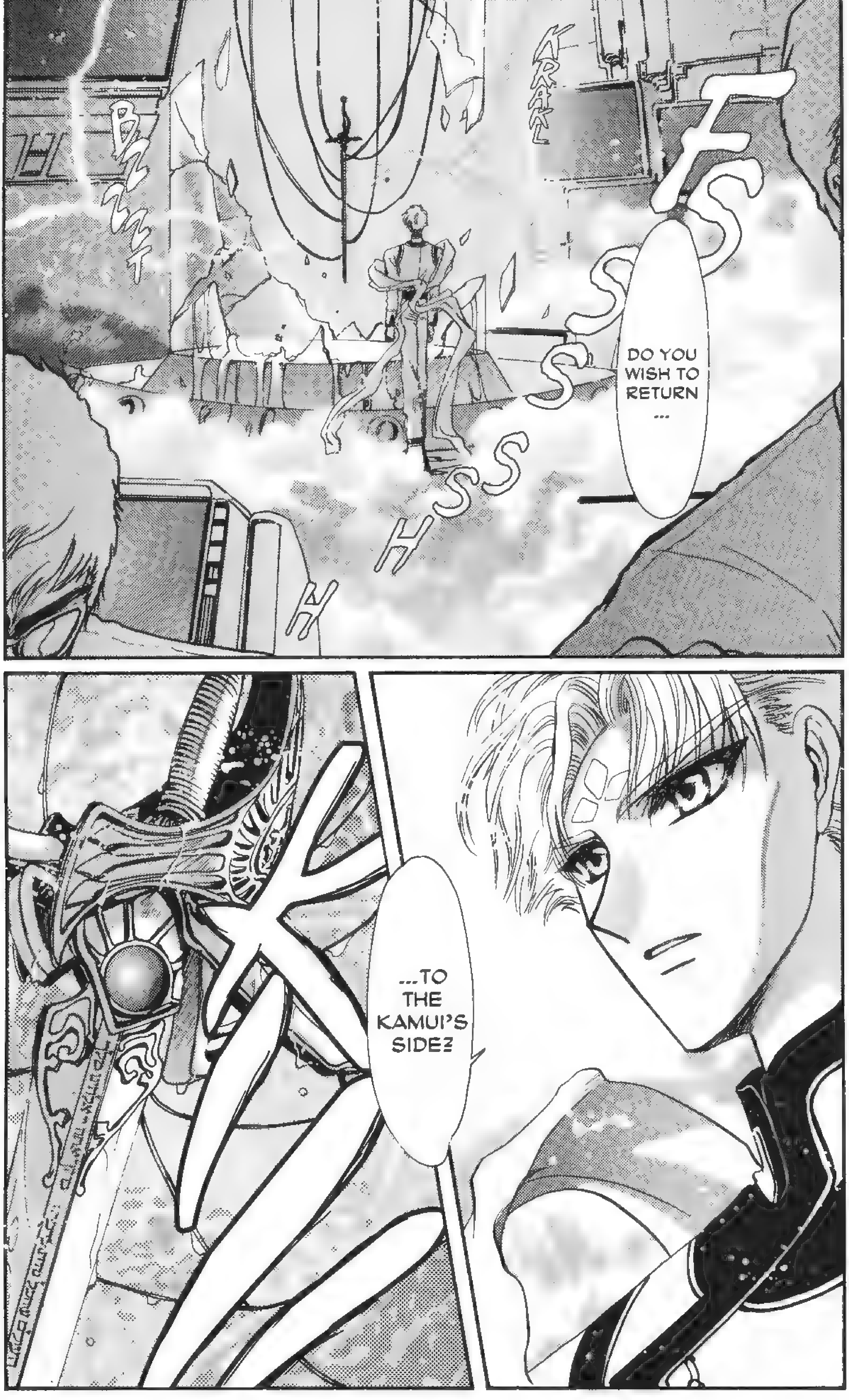


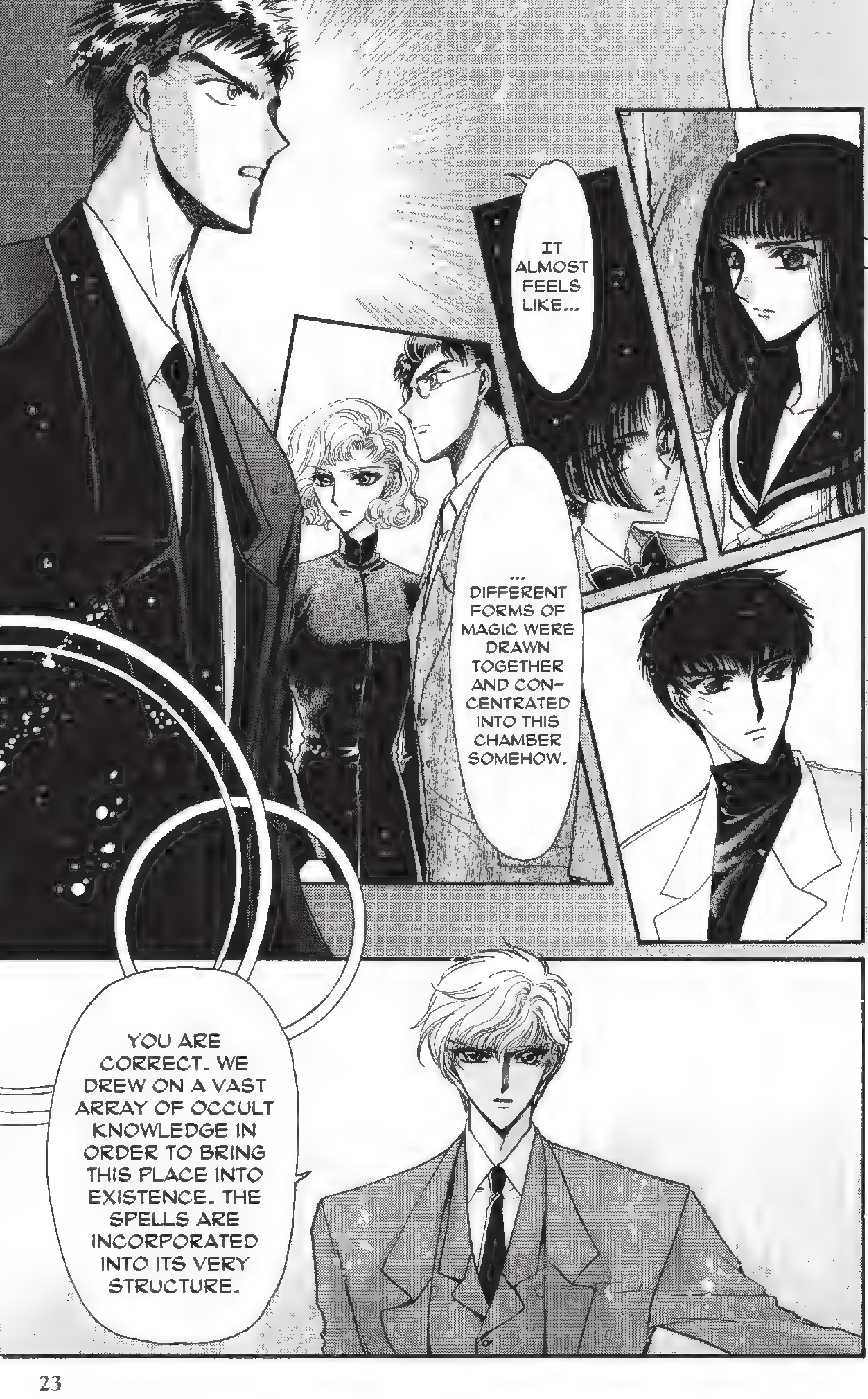

THE SACRED SWORD IS...
BA-TUMP

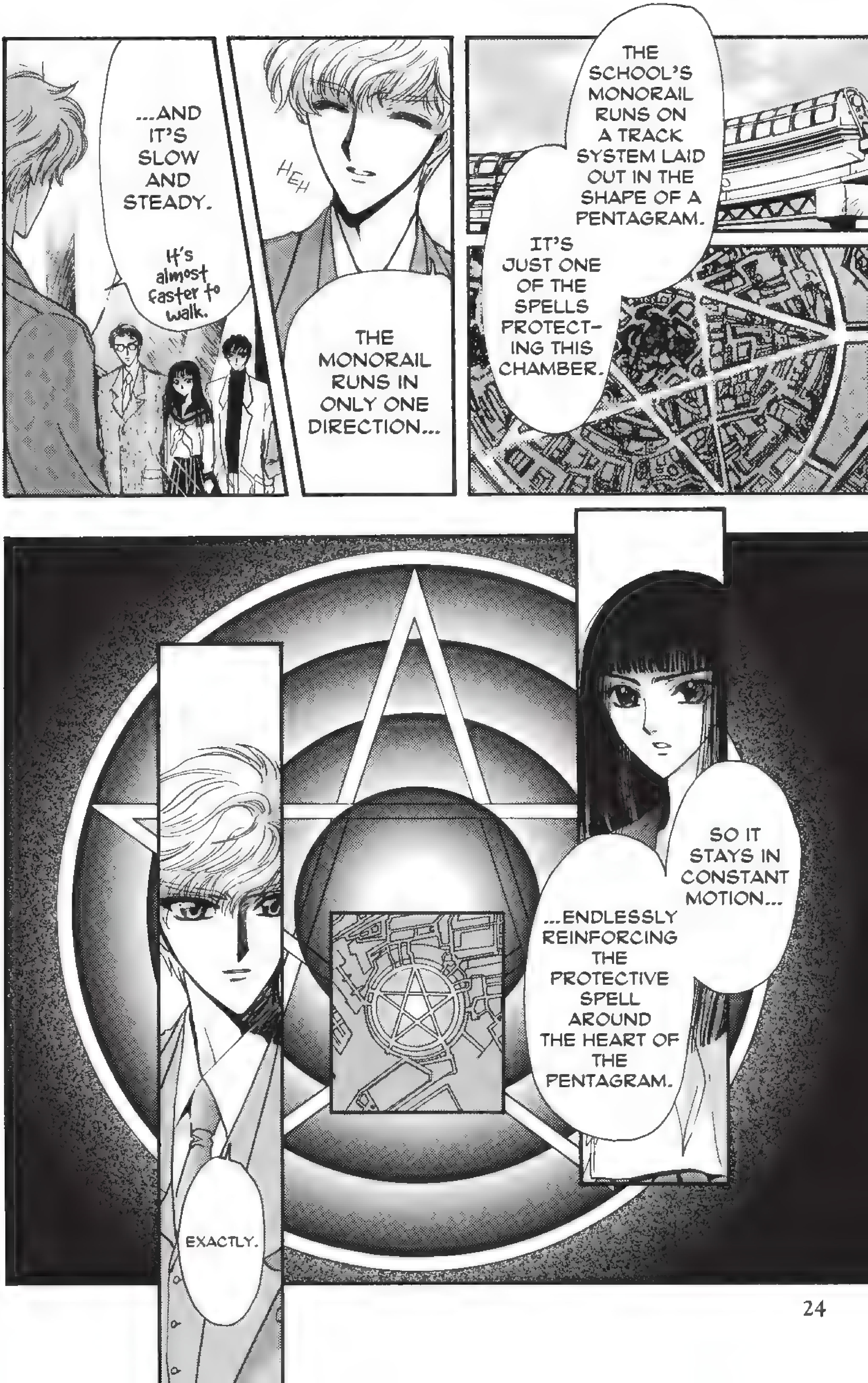

THIS PLACE ...
...WAS BUILT BY OUR FORMER CHAIRMAN IN ORDER TO KEEP HER OATH TO YOUR MOTHER.
SHE PROMISED TO PROTECT THE SWORD.

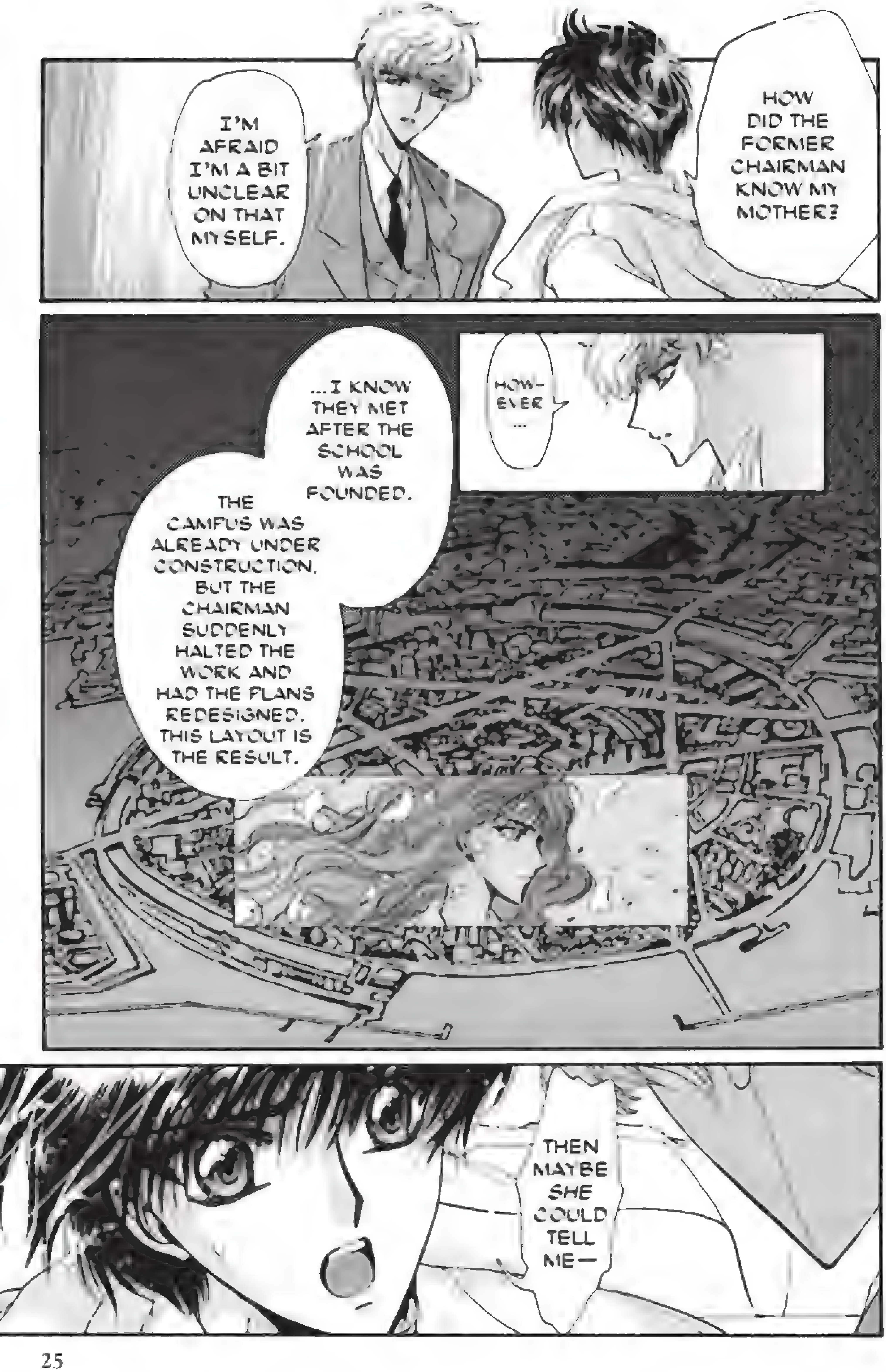

BRRBL
GLUB
GLUBGLUB.

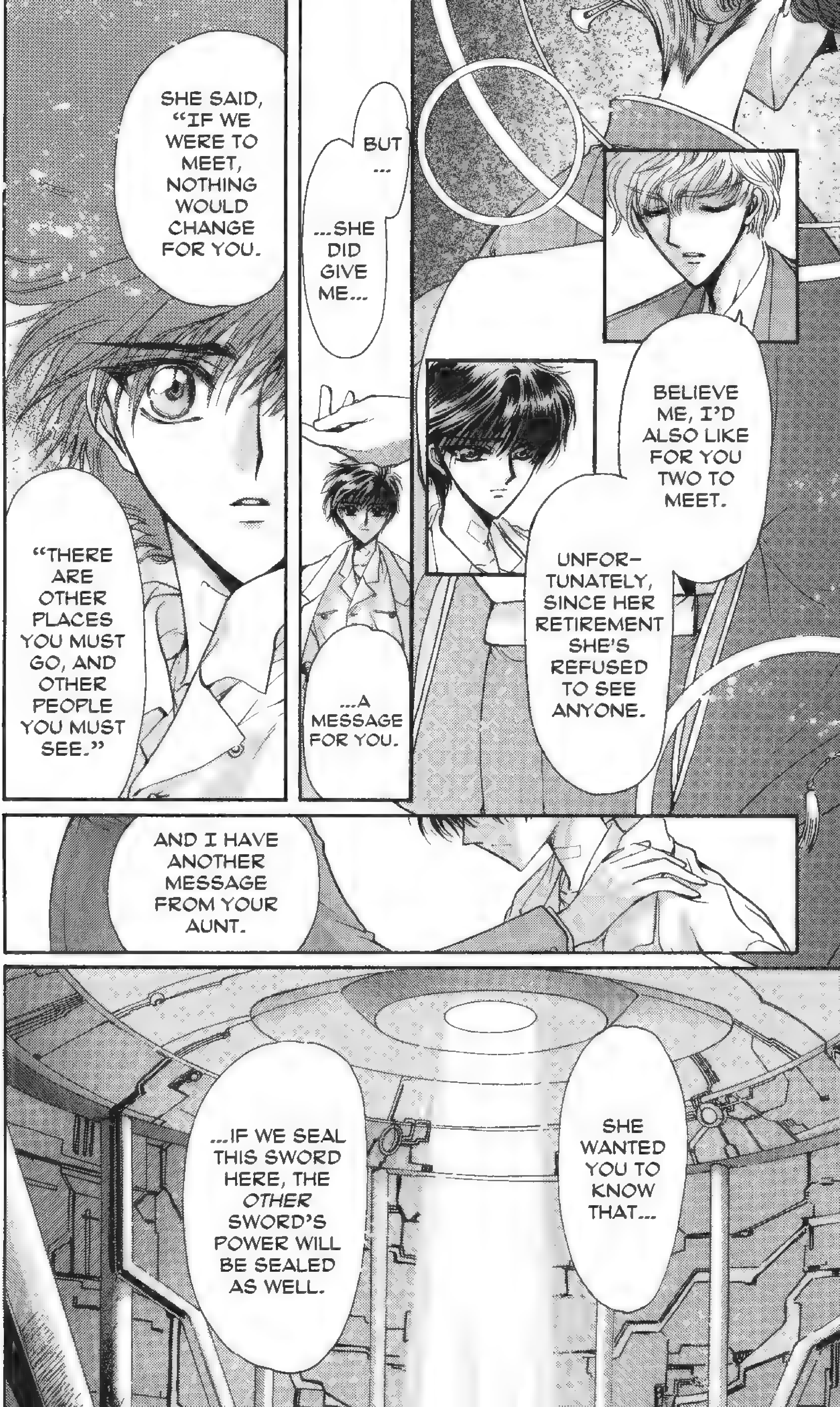

THE TREMORS ARE TOO STRONG!
THE CONTAINMENT VESSEL ISN'T GOING TO HOLD!
WRASH
GAHH
KRAK
FSSSH
SWITCH TO BACKUP POWER!
SSS
HHH

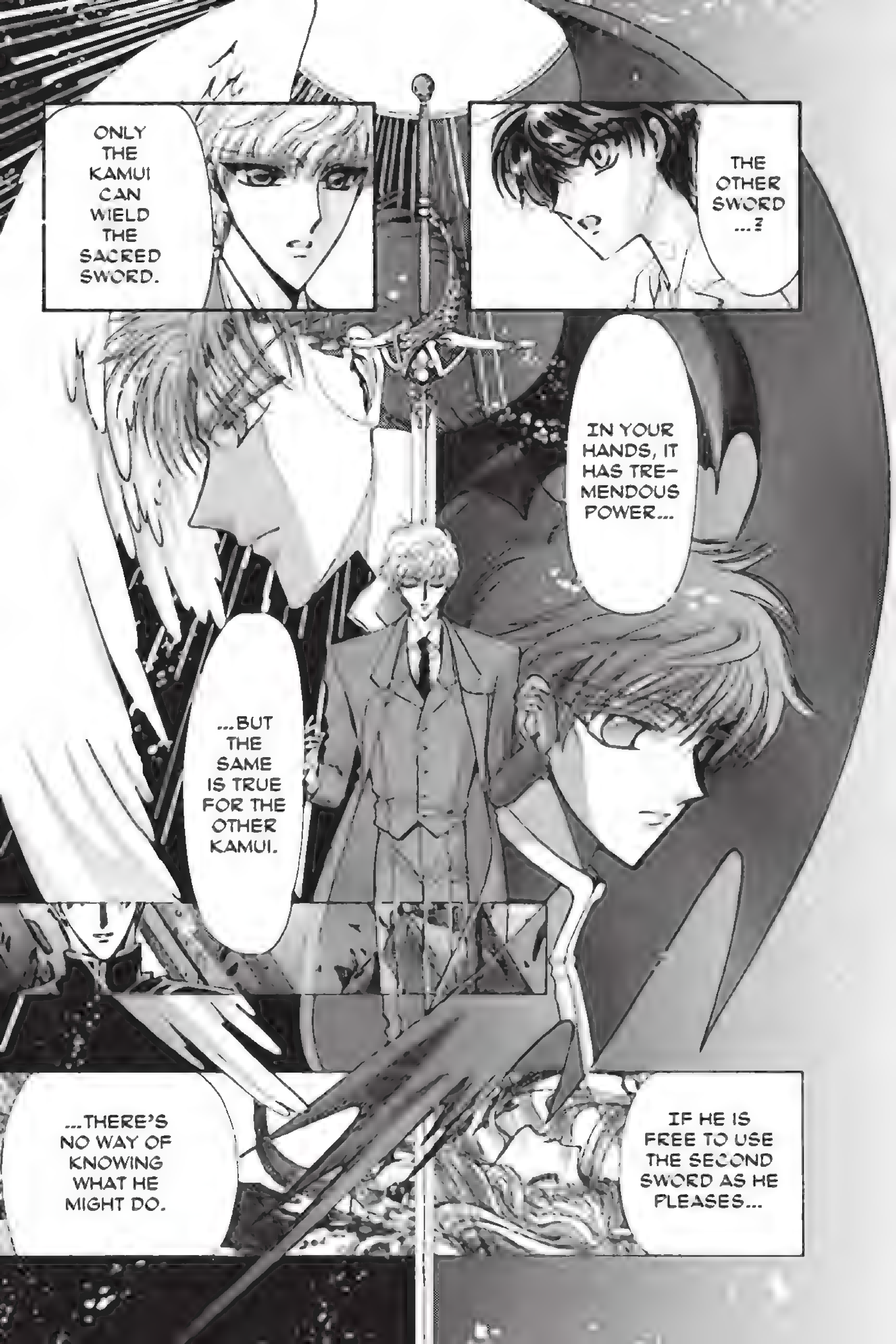

FSSSSSHH
KRAKL
BZZZT
DO YOU WISH TO RETURN ...
...TO THE KAMUI'S SIDE?

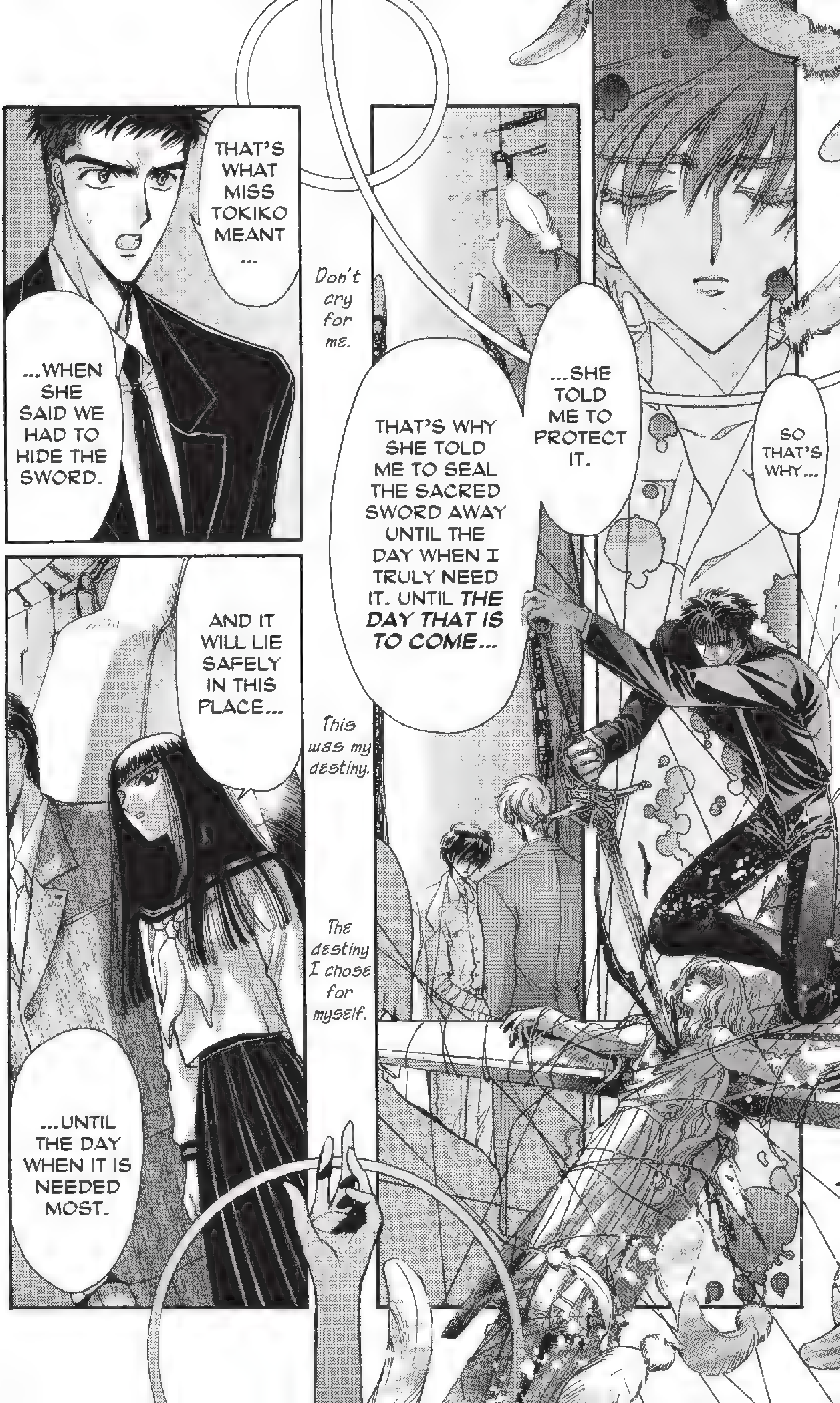

IT ALMOST FEELS LIKE...
...DIFFERENT FORMS OF MAGIC WERE DRAWN TOGETHER AND CONCENTRATED INTO THIS CHAMBER SOMEHOW.
YOU ARE CORRECT. WE DREW ON A VAST ARRAY OF OCCULT KNOWLEDGE IN ORDER TO BRING THIS PLACE INTO EXISTENCE. THE SPELLS ARE INCORPORATED INTO ITS VERY STRUCTURE.

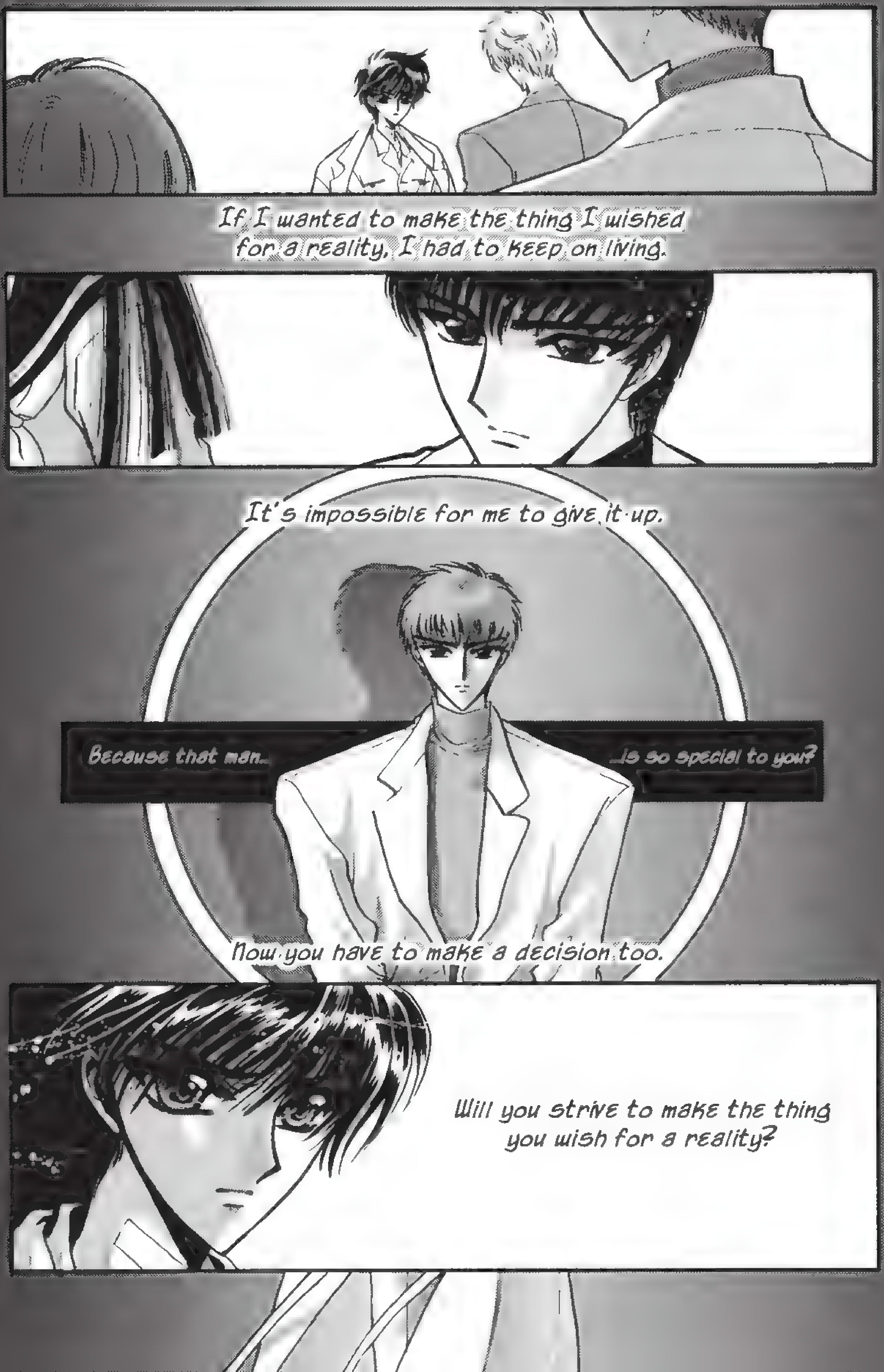

THE SCHOOL'S MONORAIL RUNS ON A TRACK SYSTEM LAID OUT IN THE SHAPE OF A PENTAGRAM.
IT'S JUST ONE OF THE SPELLS PROTECTING THIS CHAMBER.
HEH
THE MONORAIL RUNS IN ONLY ONE DIRECTION...
...AND IT'S SLOW AND STEADY.
It's almost faster to walk.
SO IT STAYS IN CONSTANT MOTION...
...ENDLESSLY REINFORCING THE PROTECTIVE SPELL AROUND THE HEART OF THE PENTAGRAM.
EXACTLY.

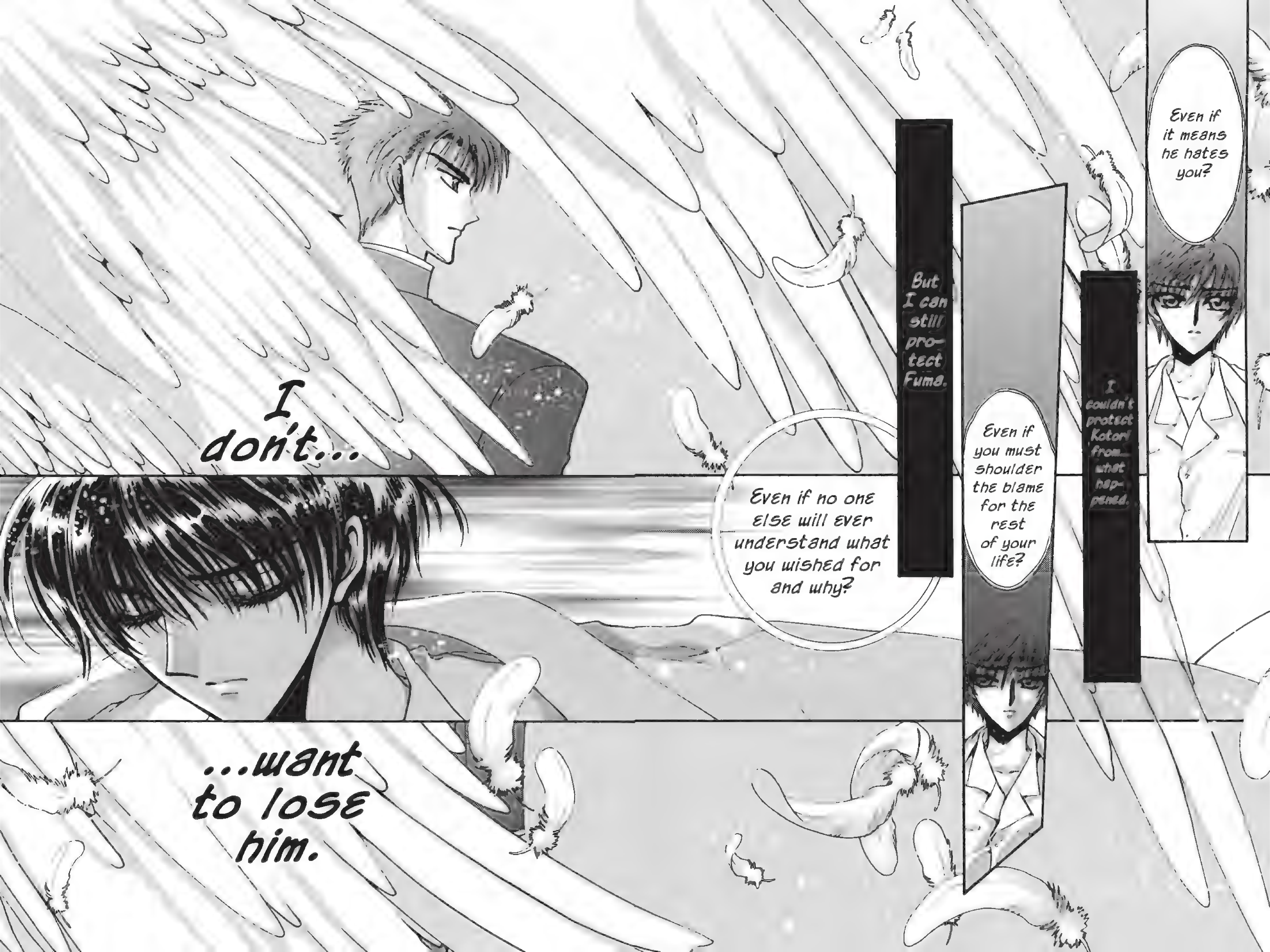

HOW DID THE FORMER CHAIRMAN KNOW MY MOTHER?
I'M AFRAID I'M A BIT UNCLEAR ON THAT MYSELF.
HOW-EVER ...
...I KNOW THEY MET AFTER THE SCHOOL WAS FOUNDED.
THE CAMPUS WAS ALREADY UNDER CONSTRUCTION, BUT THE CHAIRMAN SUDDENLY HALTED THE WORK AND HAD THE PLANS REDESIGNED. THIS LAYOUT IS THE RESULT.
THEN MAYBE *SHE* COULD TELL ME—

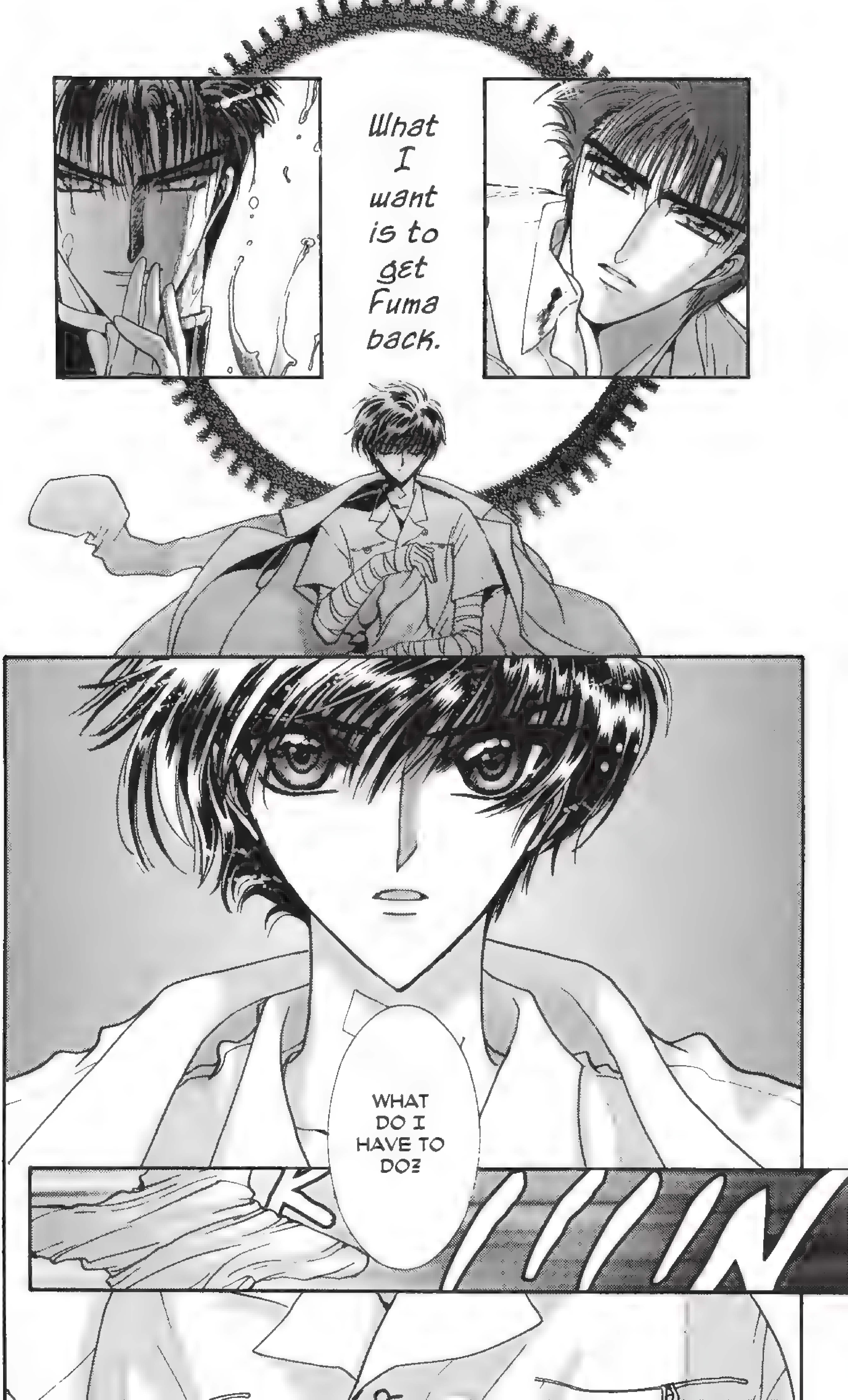

BELIEVE ME, I'D ALSO LIKE FOR YOU TWO TO MEET.
UNFORTUNATELY, SINCE HER RETIREMENT SHE'S REFUSED TO SEE ANYONE.
BUT ...
...SHE DID GIVE ME...
...A MESSAGE FOR YOU.
SHE SAID, "IF WE WERE TO MEET, NOTHING WOULD CHANGE FOR YOU.
"THERE ARE OTHER PLACES YOU MUST GO, AND OTHER PEOPLE YOU MUST SEE."
AND I HAVE ANOTHER MESSAGE FROM YOUR AUNT.
SHE WANTED YOU TO KNOW THAT...
...IF WE SEAL THIS SWORD HERE, THE *OTHER* SWORD'S POWER WILL BE SEALED AS WELL.

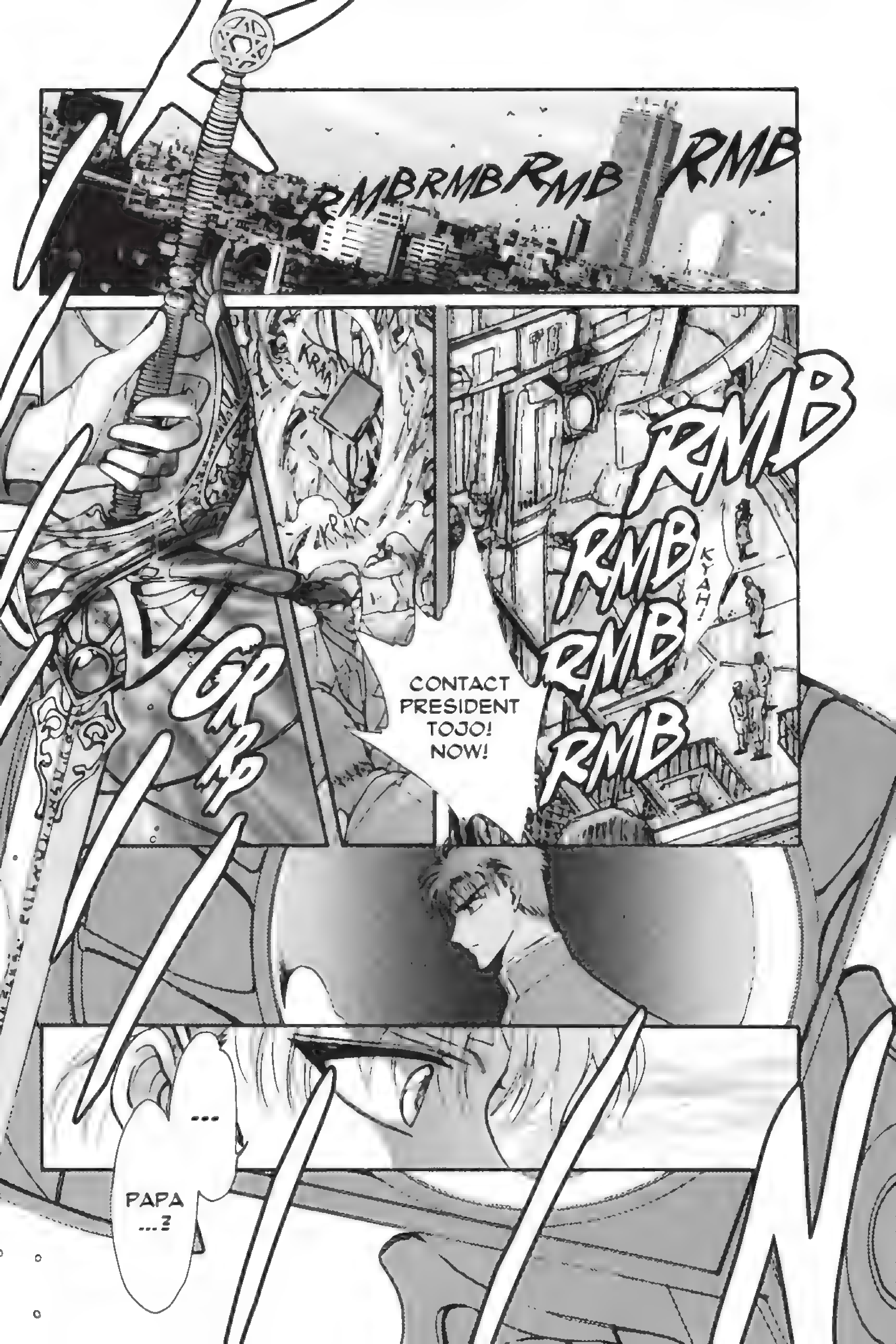

THE OTHER SWORD ...?
ONLY THE KAMUI CAN WIELD THE SACRED SWORD.
IN YOUR HANDS, IT HAS TREMENDOUS POWER...
...BUT THE SAME IS TRUE FOR THE OTHER KAMUI.
IF HE IS FREE TO USE THE SECOND SWORD AS HE PLEASES...
...THERE'S NO WAY OF KNOWING WHAT HE MIGHT DO.

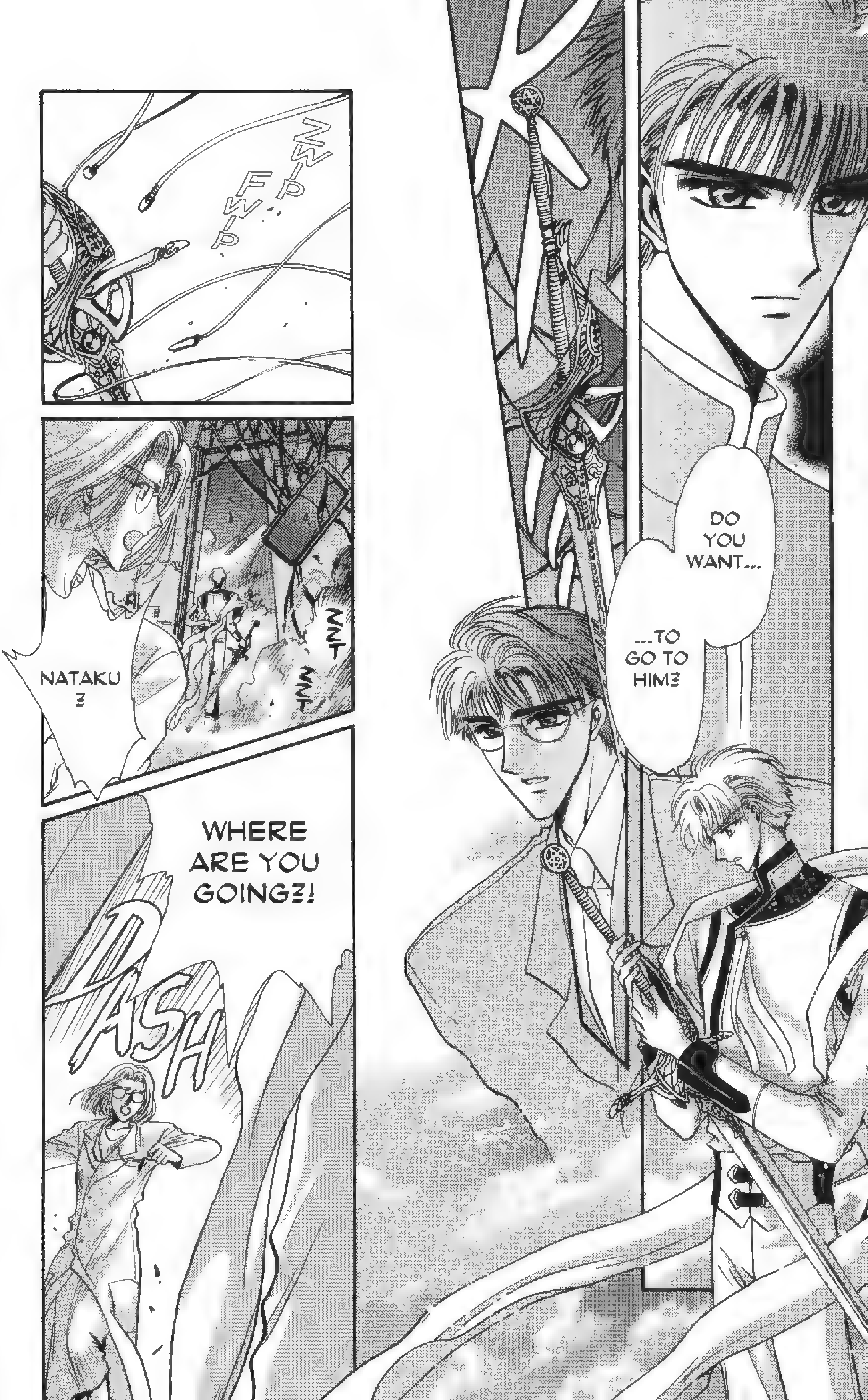

SO THAT'S WHY...
...SHE TOLD ME TO PROTECT IT.
THAT'S WHY SHE TOLD ME TO SEAL THE SACRED SWORD AWAY UNTIL THE DAY WHEN I TRULY NEED IT. UNTIL *THE DAY THAT IS TO COME...*
Don't cry for me.
This was my destiny.
The destiny I chose for myself.
THAT'S WHAT MISS TOKIKO MEANT ...
...WHEN SHE SAID WE HAD TO HIDE THE SWORD.
AND IT WILL LIE SAFELY IN THIS PLACE...
...UNTIL THE DAY WHEN IT IS NEEDED MOST.

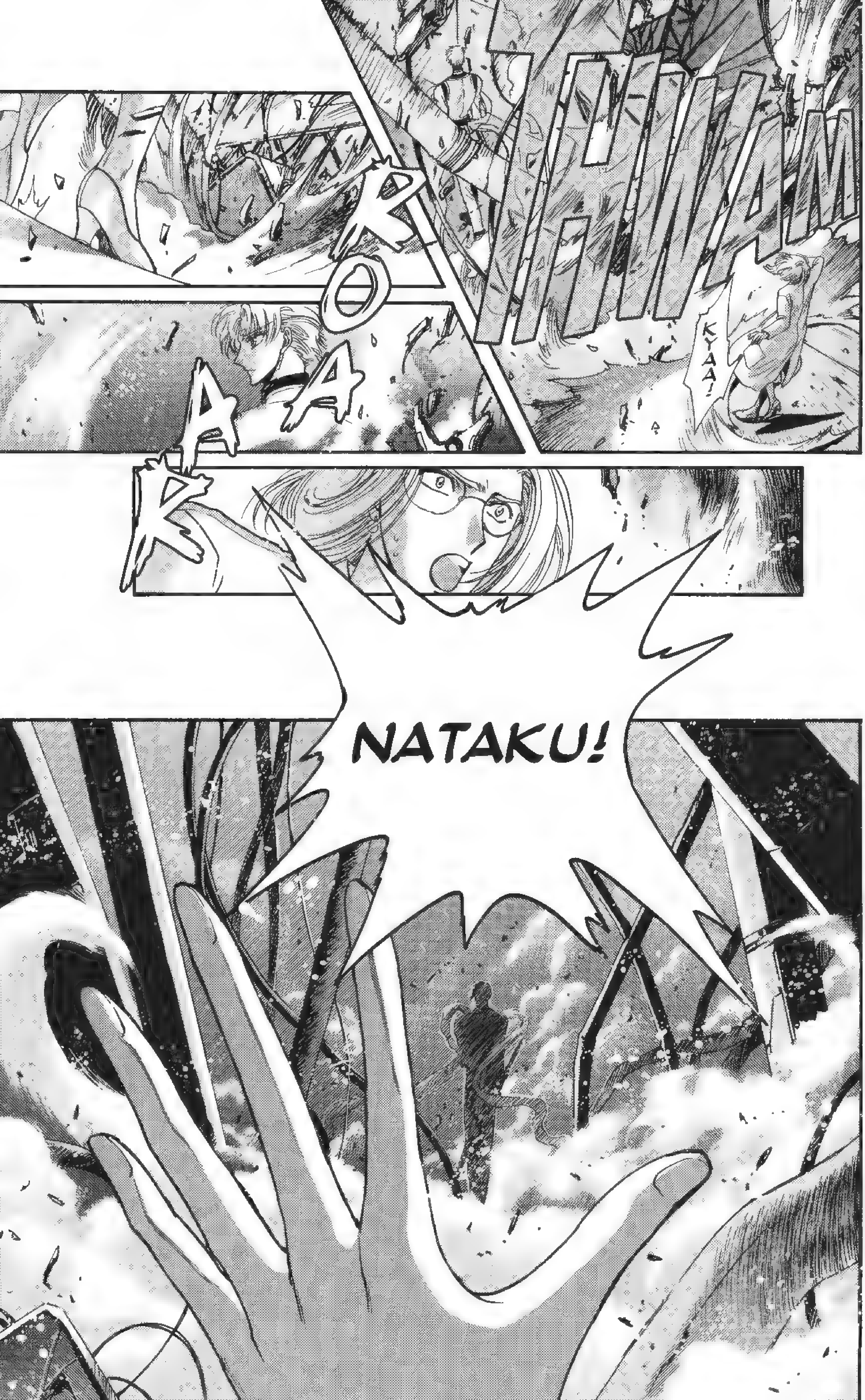

If I wanted to make the thing I wished for a reality, I had to keep on living.
It's impossible for me to give it up.
Because that man...
...is so special to you?
Now you have to make a decision too.
Will you strive to make the thing you wish for a reality?

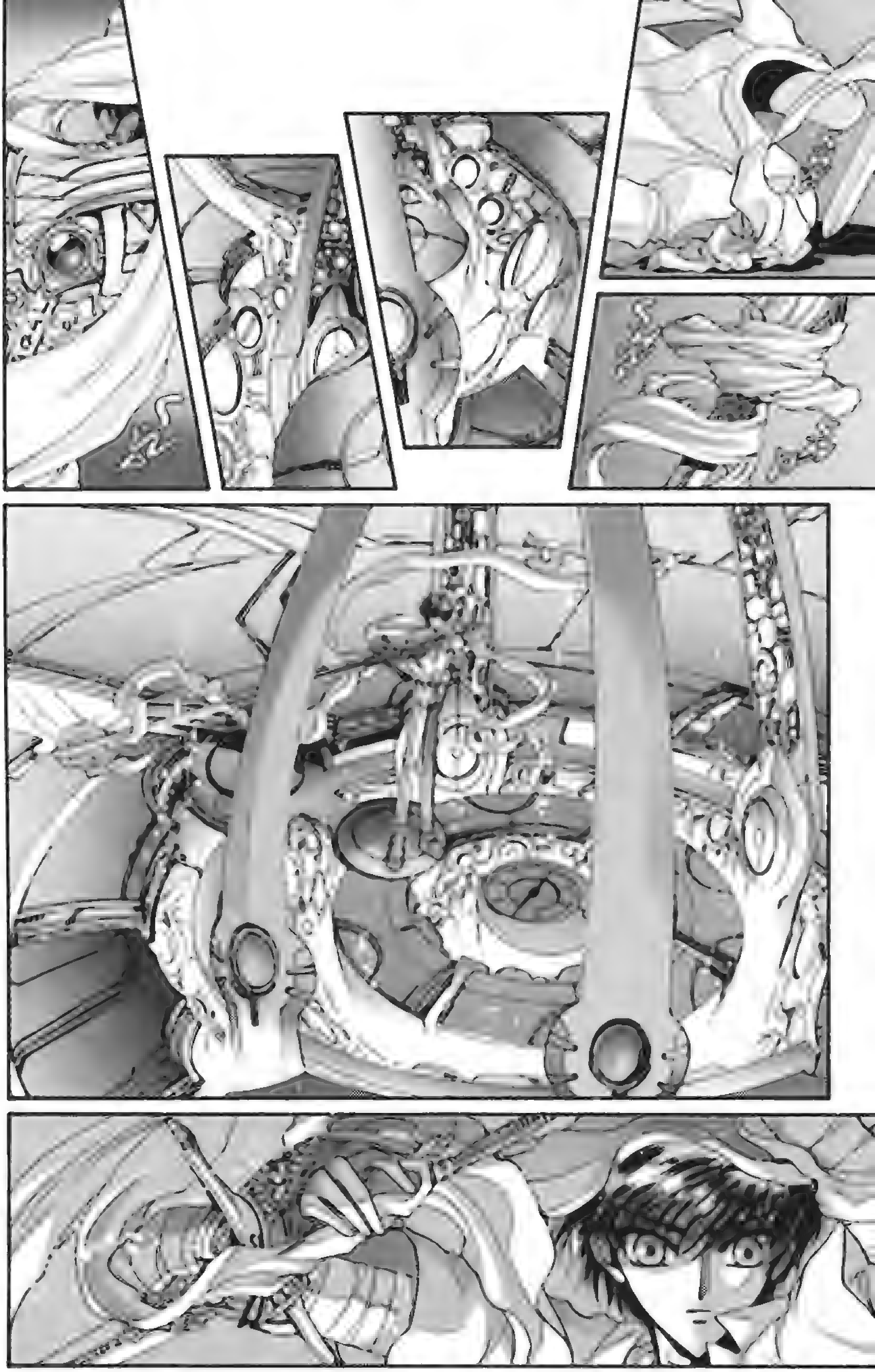

Even if it means he hates you?
I couldn't protect Kotori from... what happened.
Even if you must shoulder the blame for the rest of your life?
But I can still protect Fuma.
Even if no one else will ever understand what you wished for and why?
I don't...
...want to lose him.

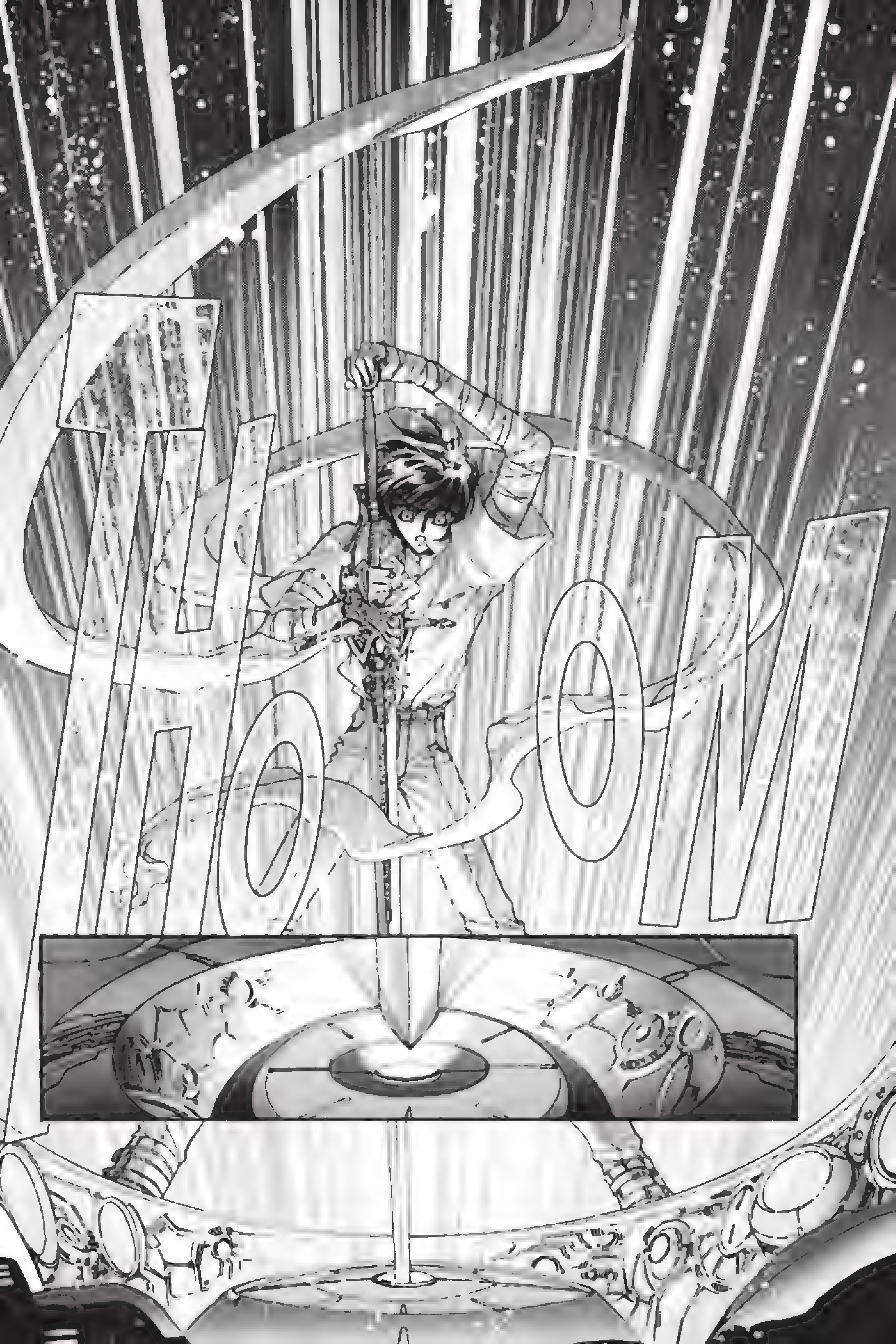

What I want is to get Fuma back.
WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?
KIIIIN

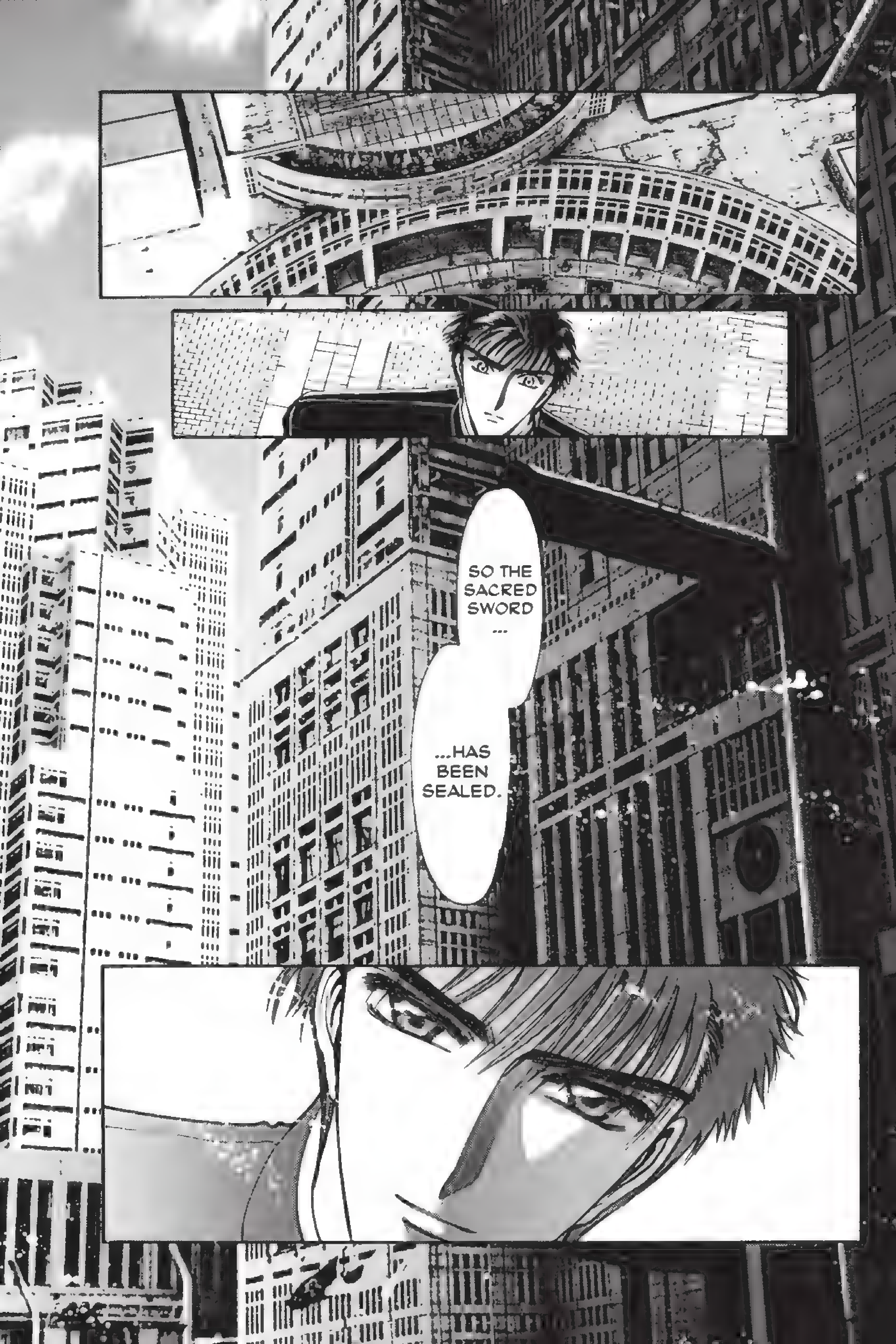

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
KYAH!
KRAK
KRAK
GRRRP
CONTACT PRESIDENT TOJO! NOW!
...
PAPA ...?

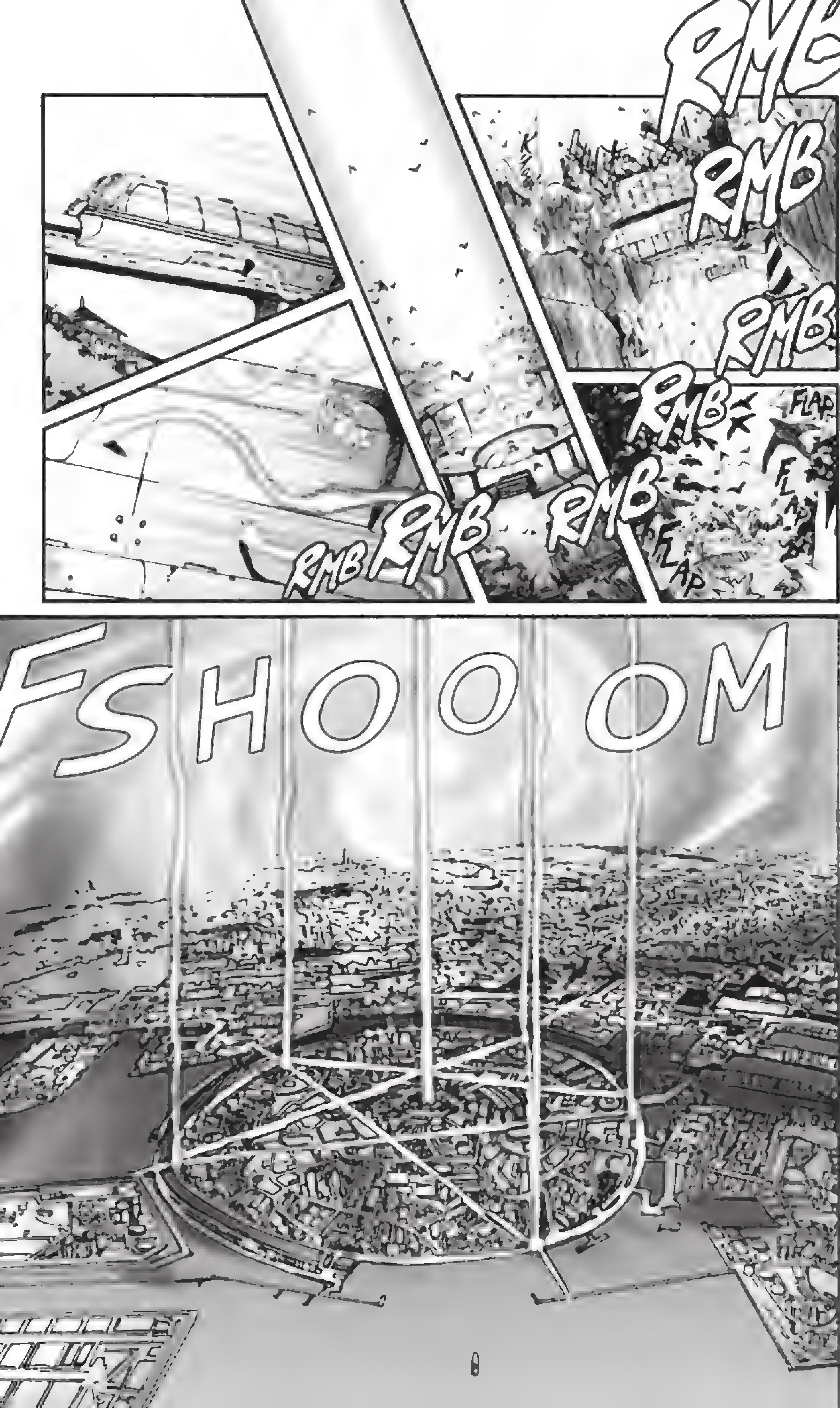

DO YOU WANT...
...TO GO TO HIM?
ZWIP
FWIP
NATAKU?
ZZT
ZZT
WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!
DASH

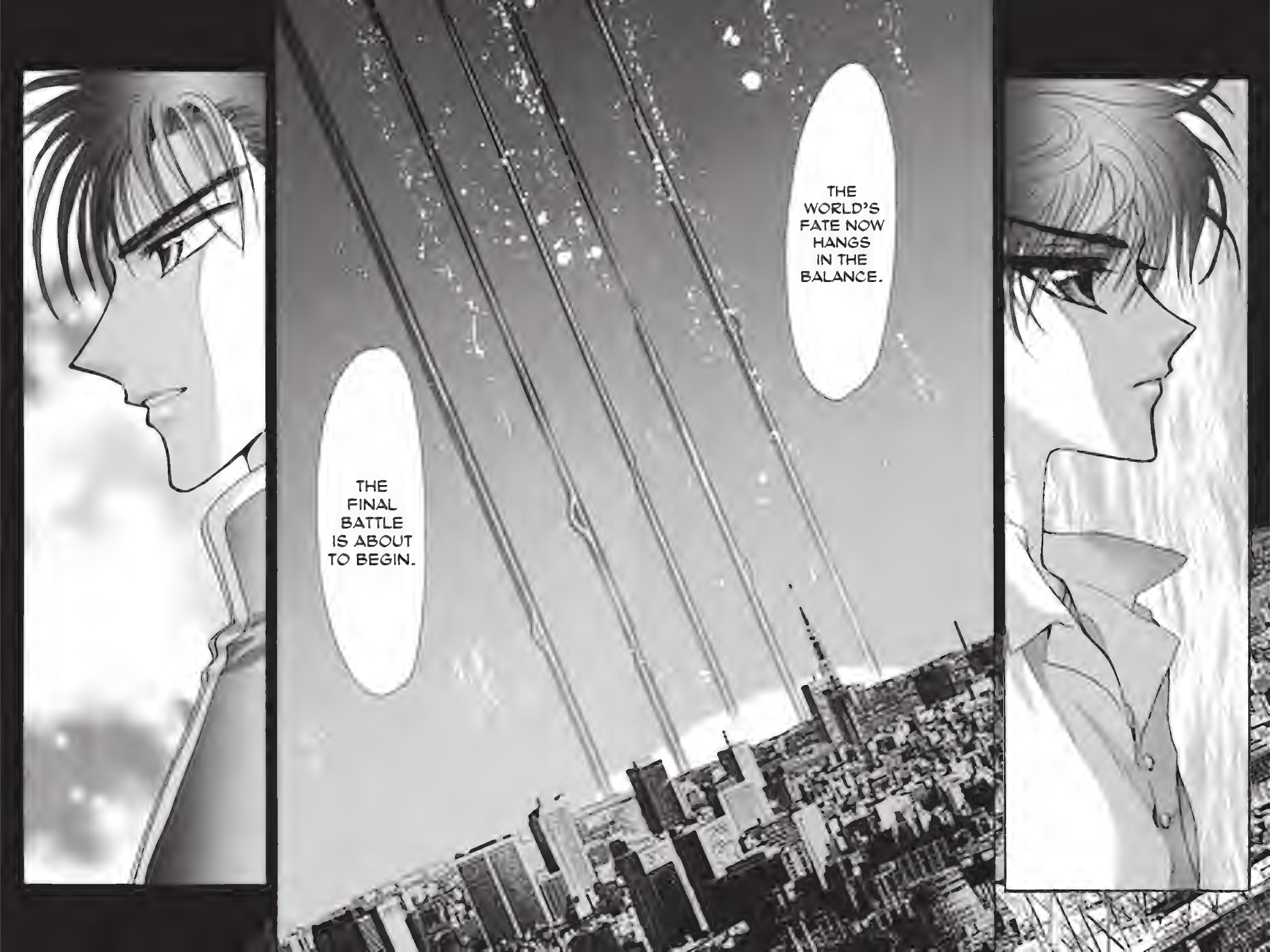

THWAM
KYAA!
KAAOR
NATAKU!

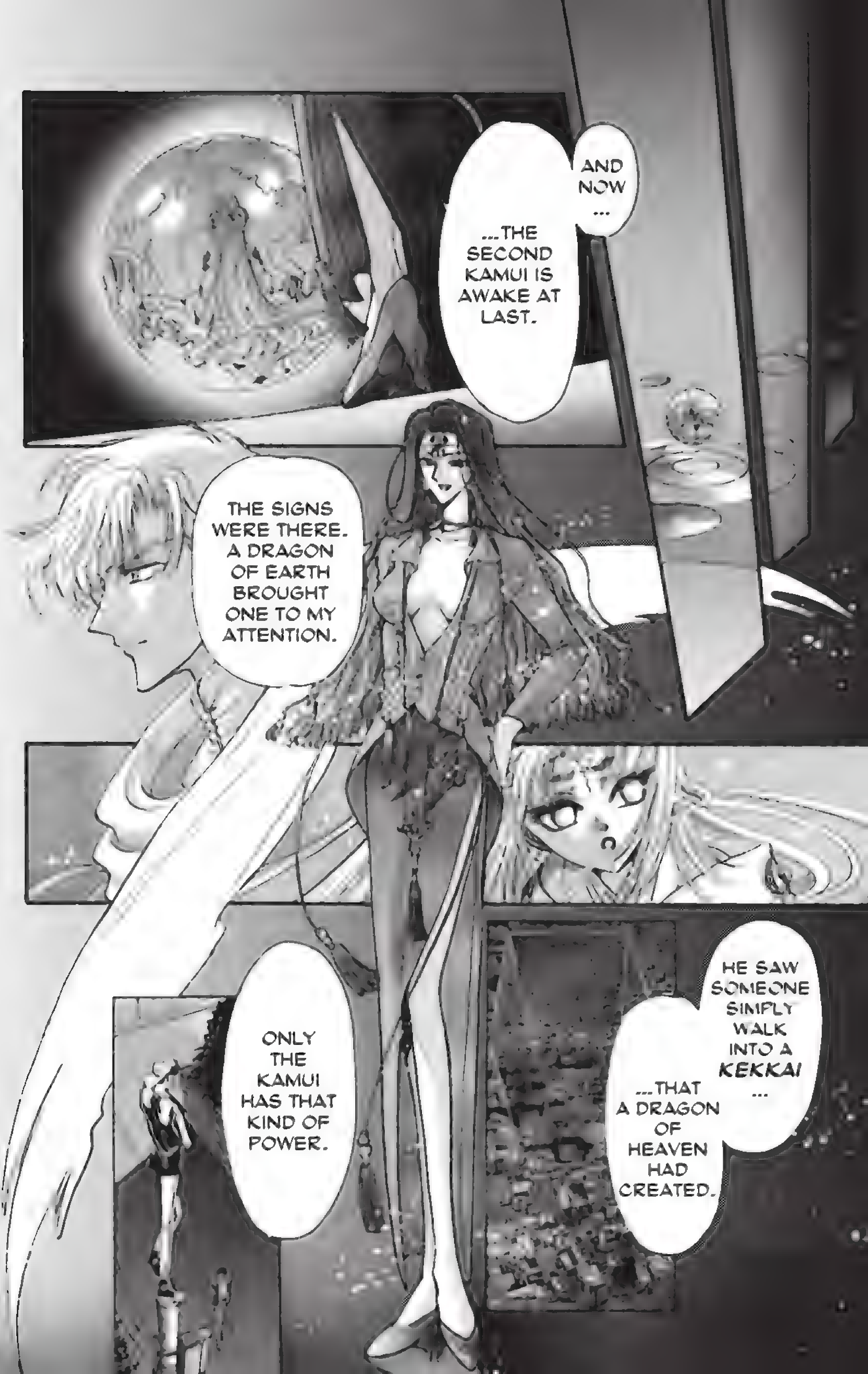


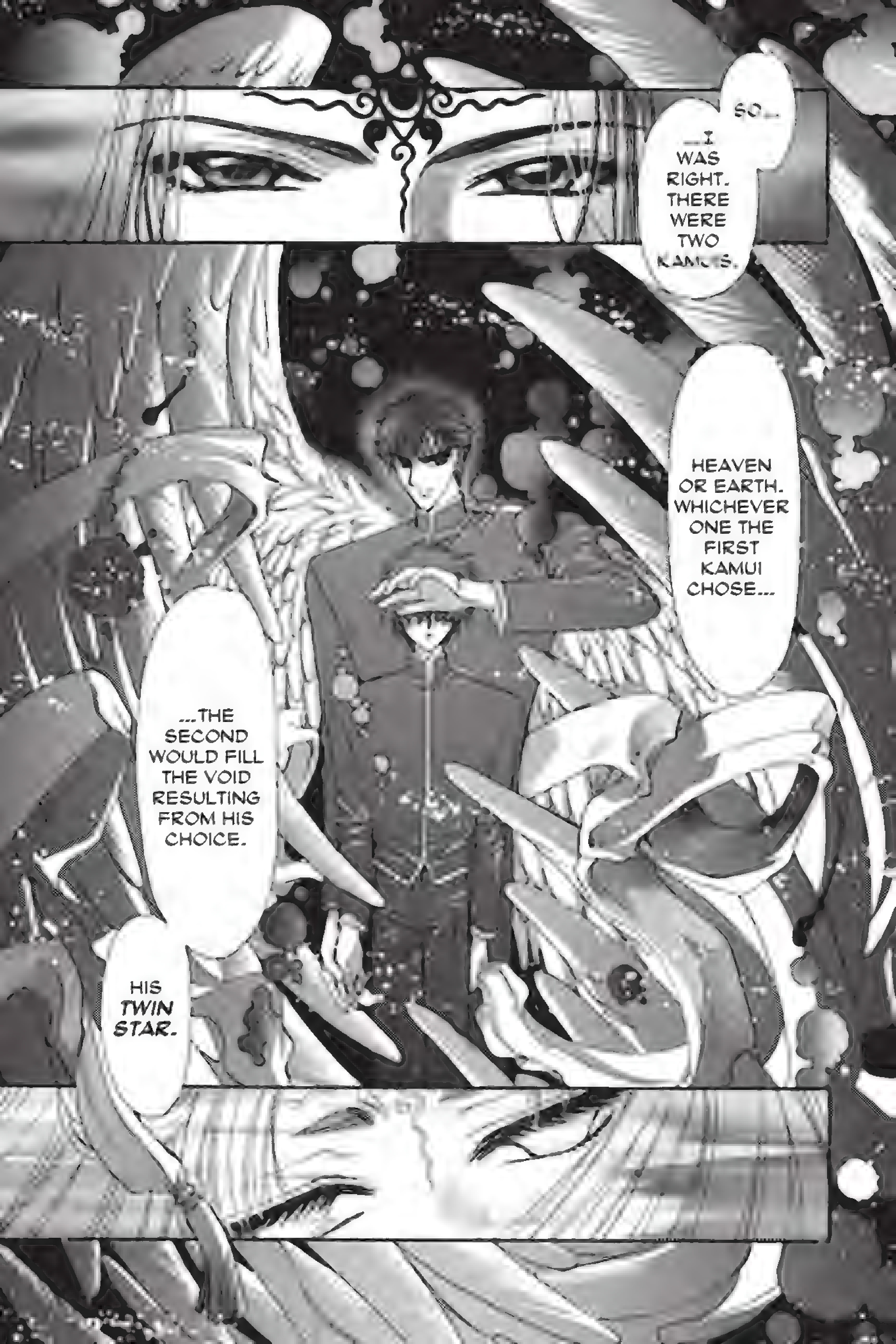

THOOM

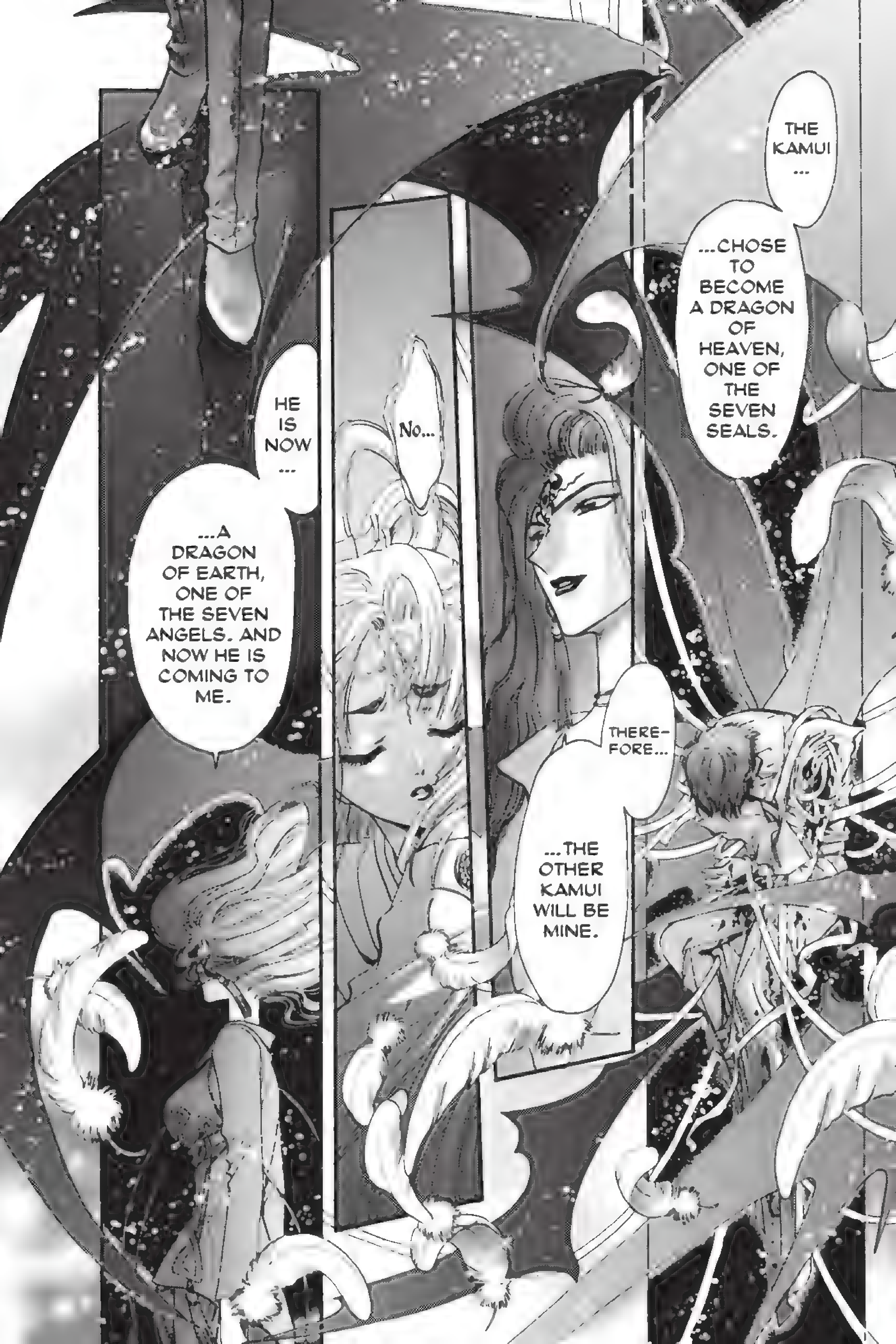

SO THE SACRED SWORD ...
...HAS BEEN SEALED.

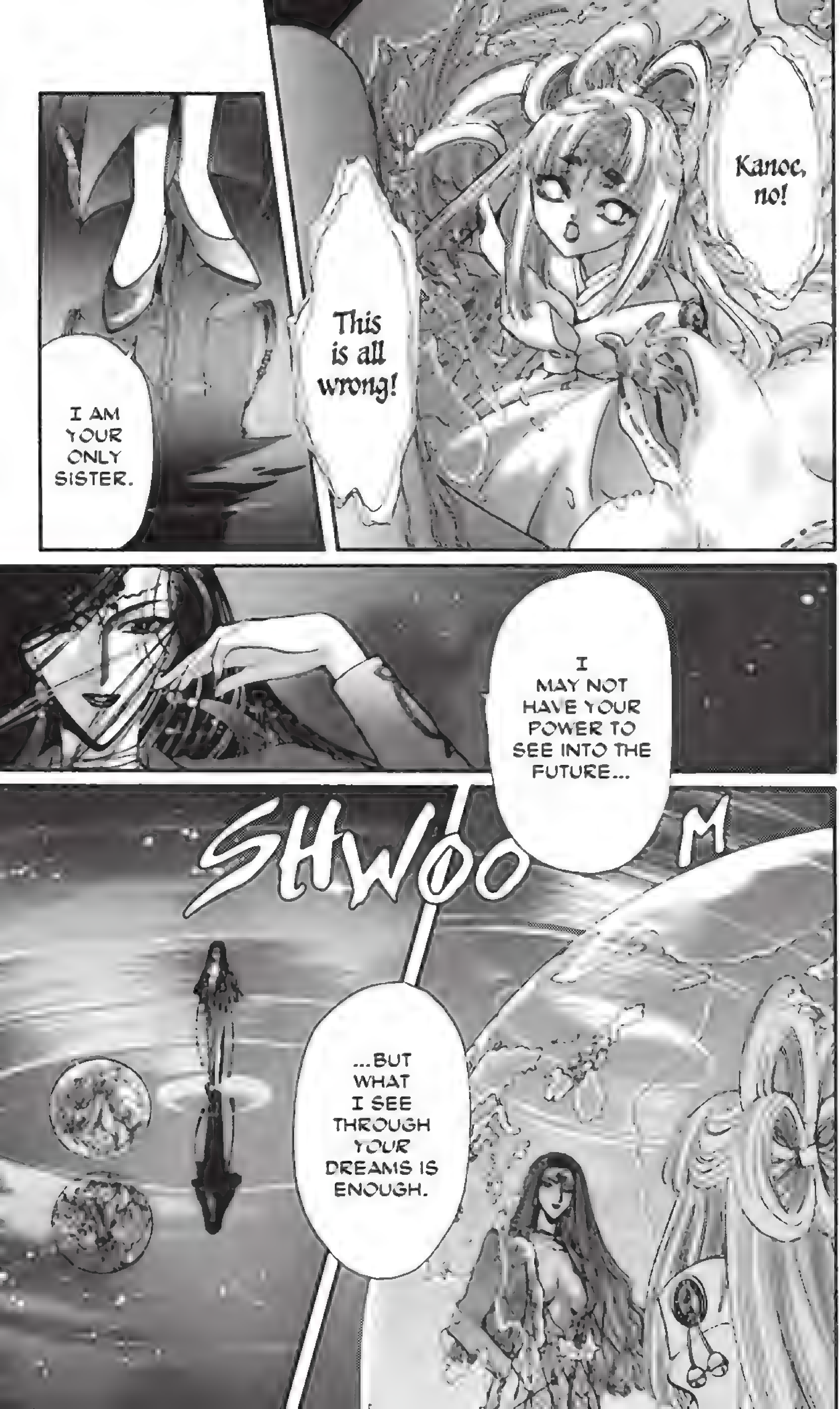

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
RMB
RMB
RMB
FSHOOOM

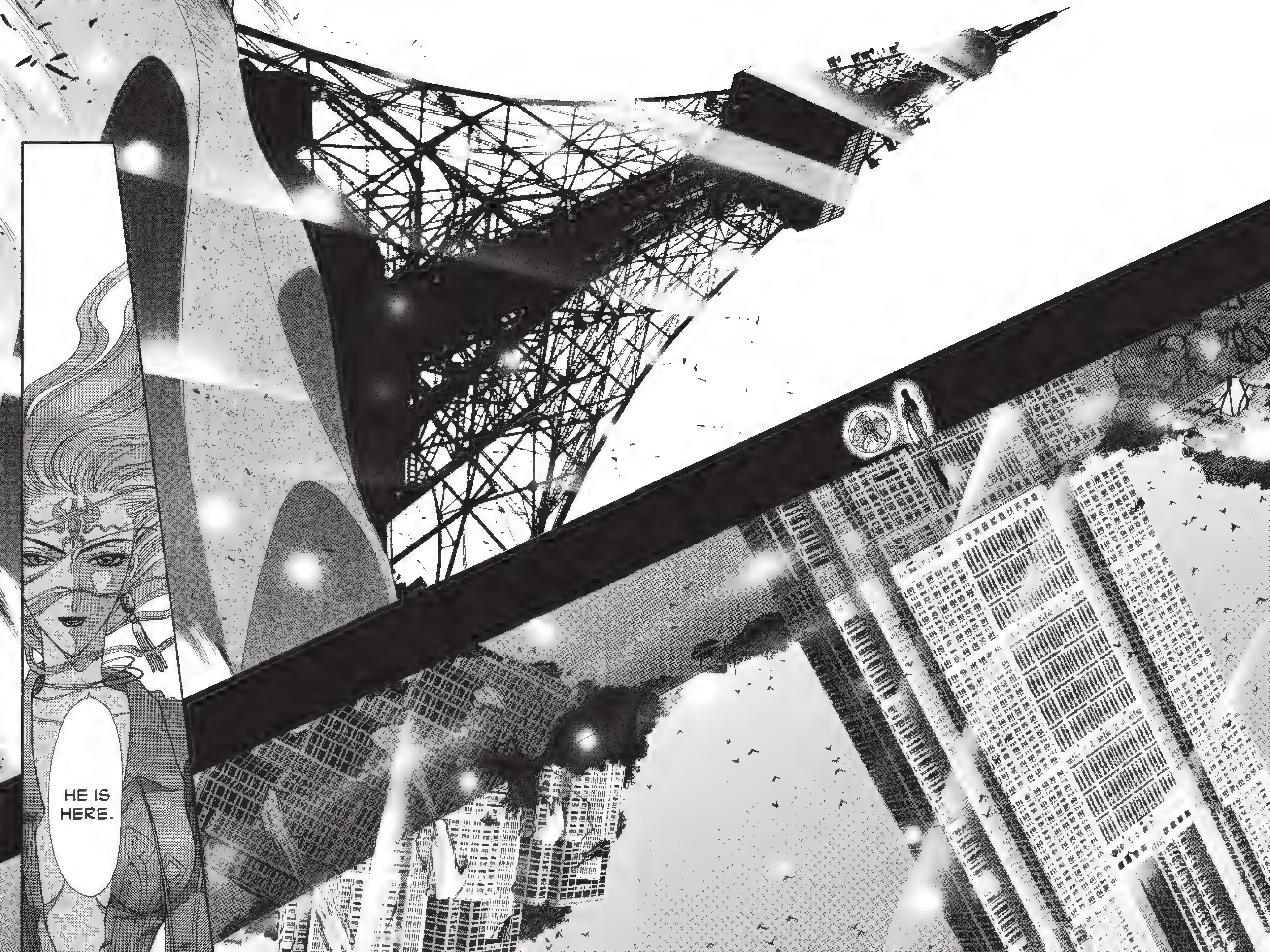

THE WORLD'S FATE NOW HANGS IN THE BALANCE.
THE FINAL BATTLE IS ABOUT TO BEGIN.

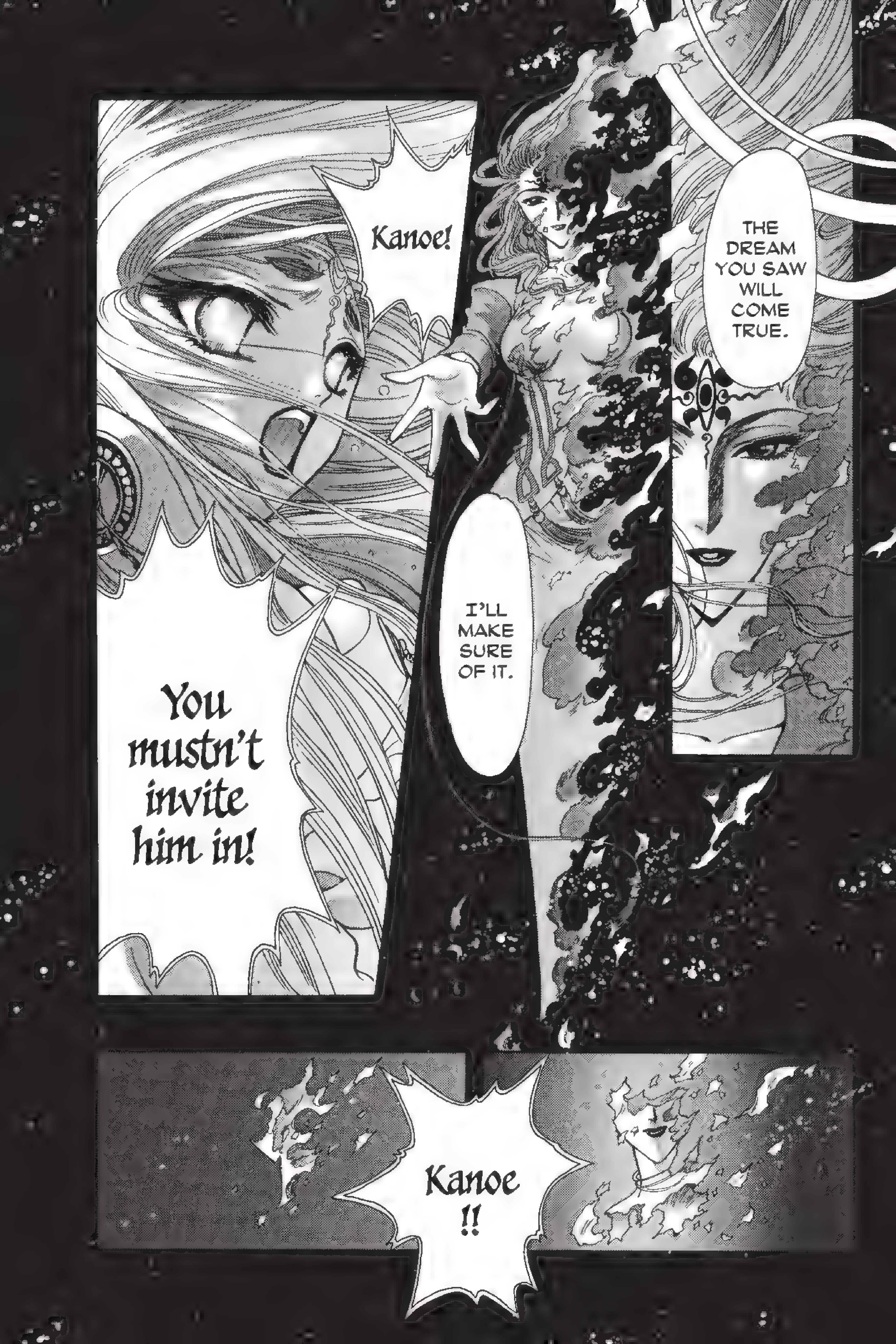

AND NOW ...
...THE SECOND KAMUI IS AWAKE AT LAST.
THE SIGNS WERE THERE. A DRAGON OF EARTH BROUGHT ONE TO MY ATTENTION.
HE SAW SOMEONE SIMPLY WALK INTO A *KEKKAI* ...
...THAT A DRAGON OF HEAVEN HAD CREATED.
ONLY THE KAMUI HAS THAT KIND OF POWER.

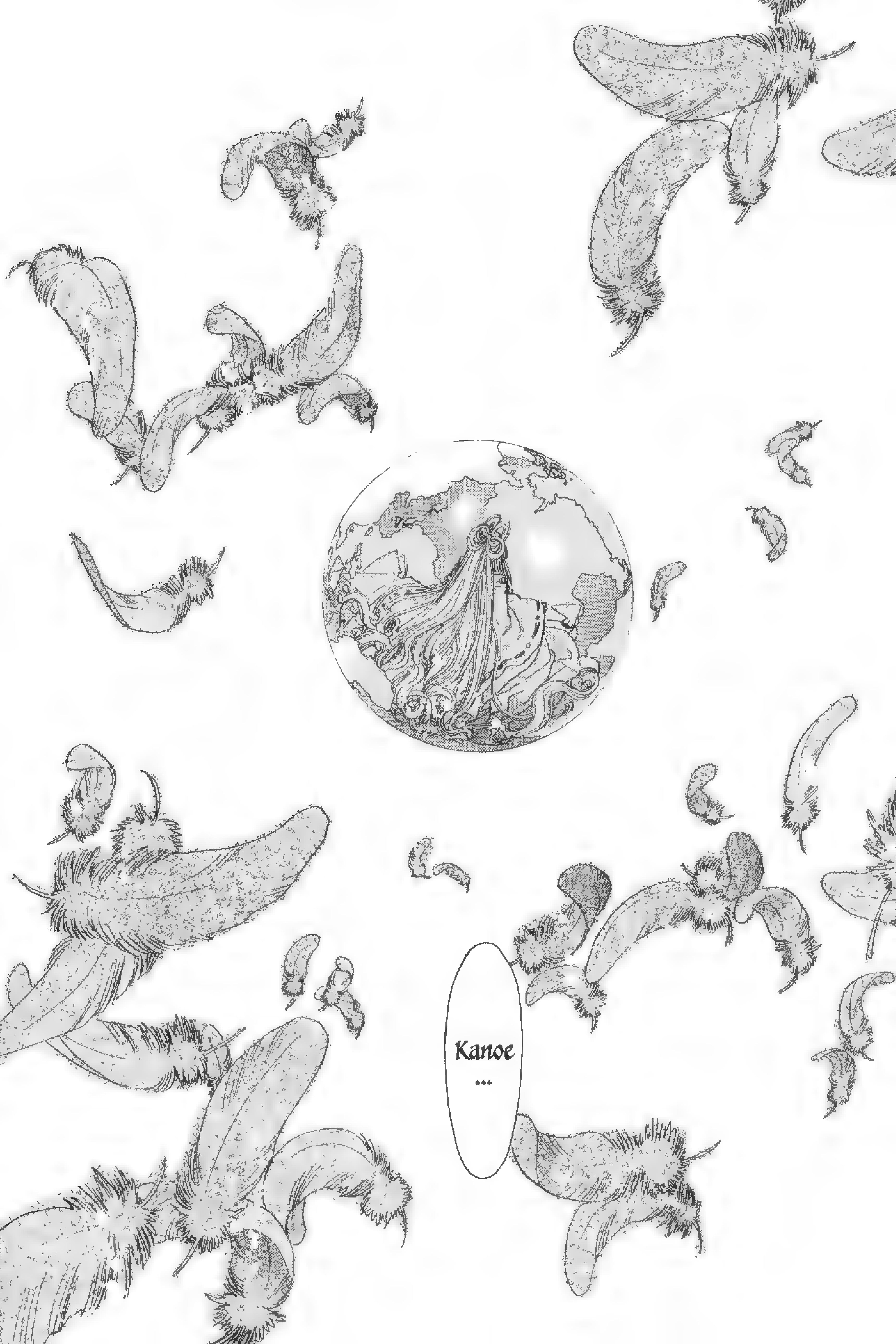

SO...
...I WAS RIGHT. THERE WERE TWO KAMUIS.
HEAVEN OR EARTH. WHICHEVER ONE THE FIRST KAMUI CHOSE...
...THE SECOND WOULD FILL THE VOID RESULTING FROM HIS CHOICE.
HIS *TWIN STAR*.

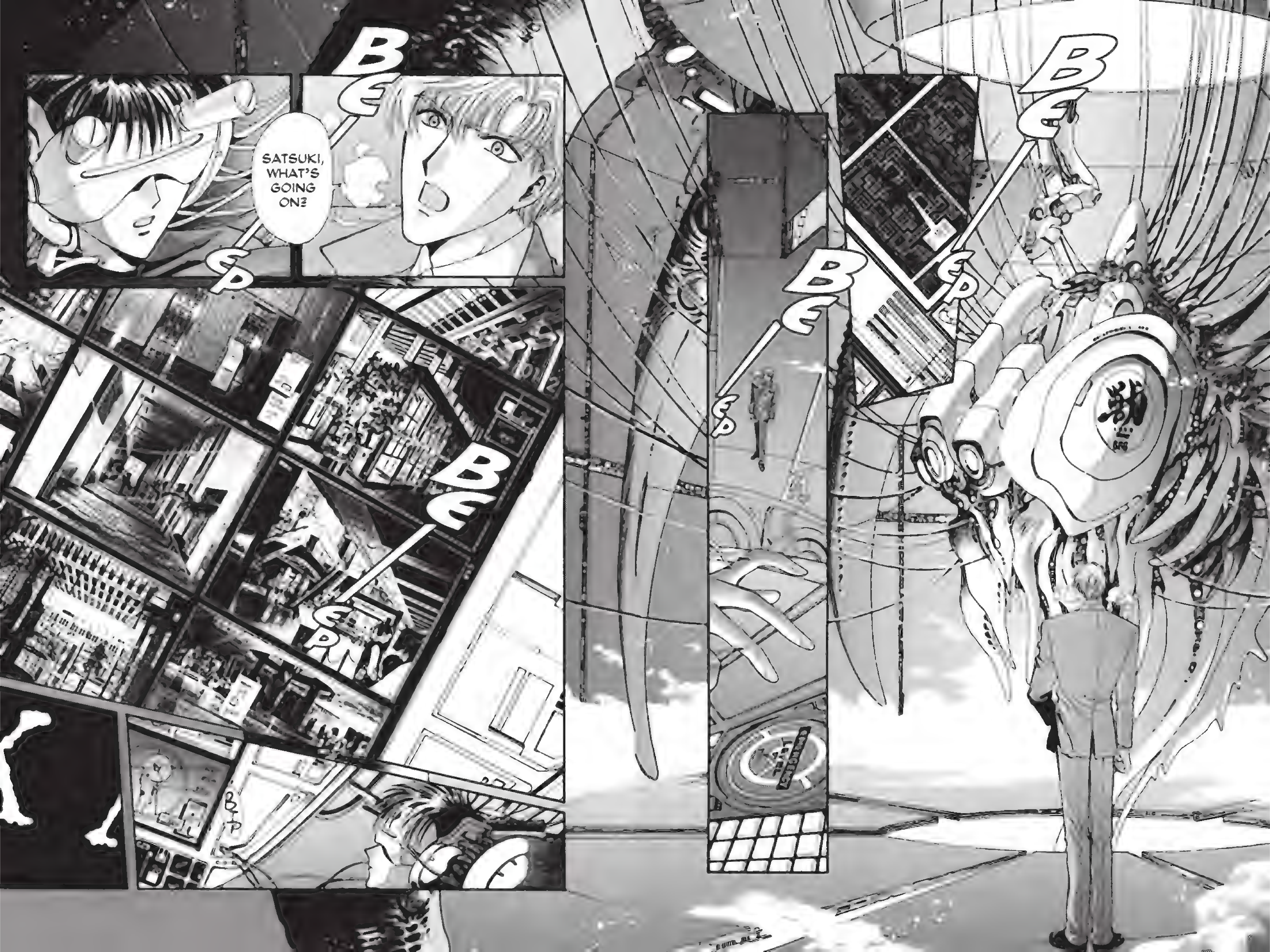

THE KAMUI ...
...CHOSE TO BECOME A DRAGON OF HEAVEN, ONE OF THE SEVEN SEALS.
No...
HE IS NOW ...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH, ONE OF THE SEVEN ANGELS. AND NOW HE IS COMING TO ME.
THEREFORE...
...THE OTHER KAMUI WILL BE MINE.

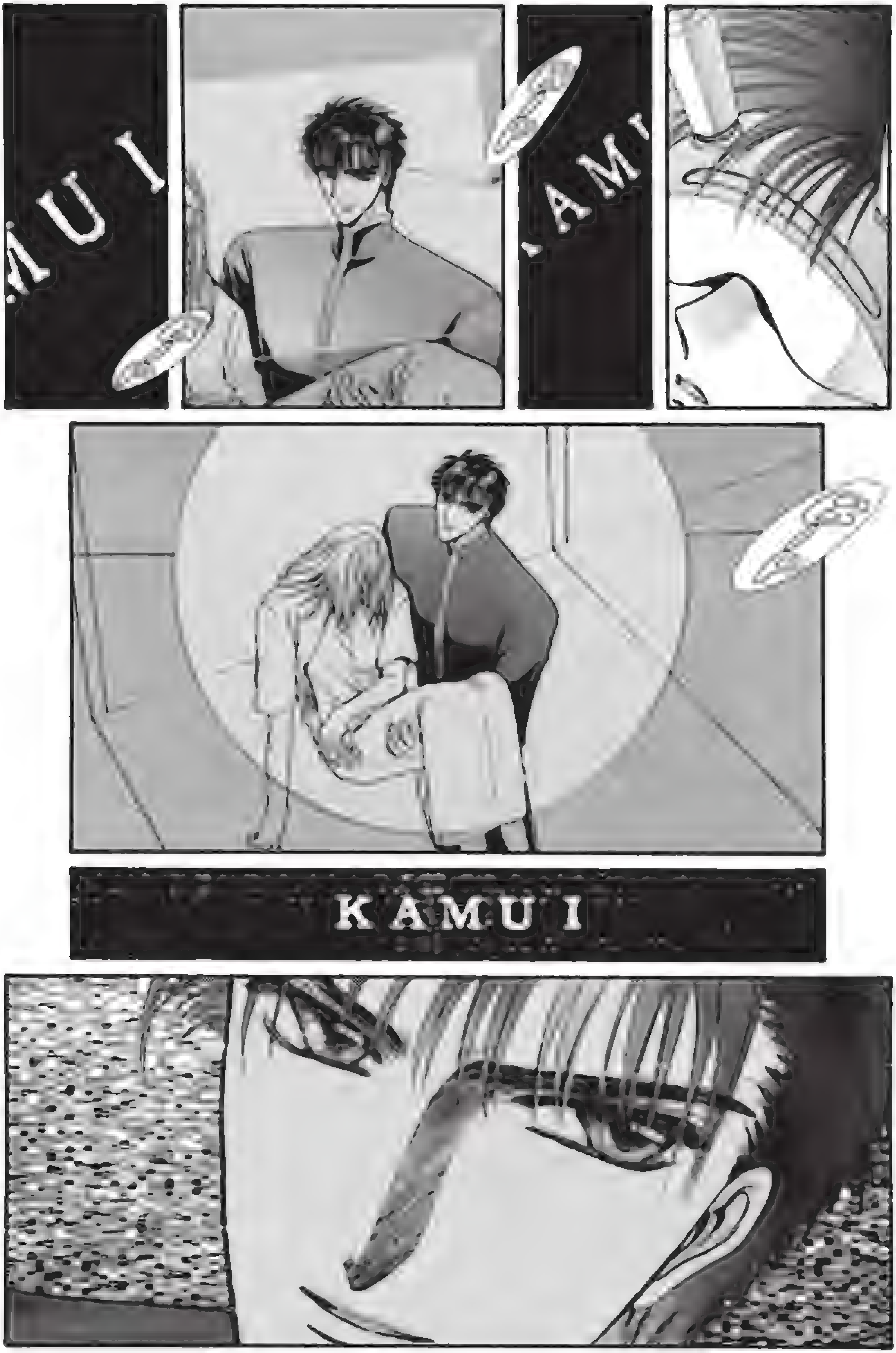

Kanoe, no!
This is all wrong!
I AM YOUR ONLY SISTER.
I MAY NOT HAVE YOUR POWER TO SEE INTO THE FUTURE...
SHWOOM
...BUT WHAT I SEE THROUGH YOUR DREAMS IS ENOUGH.

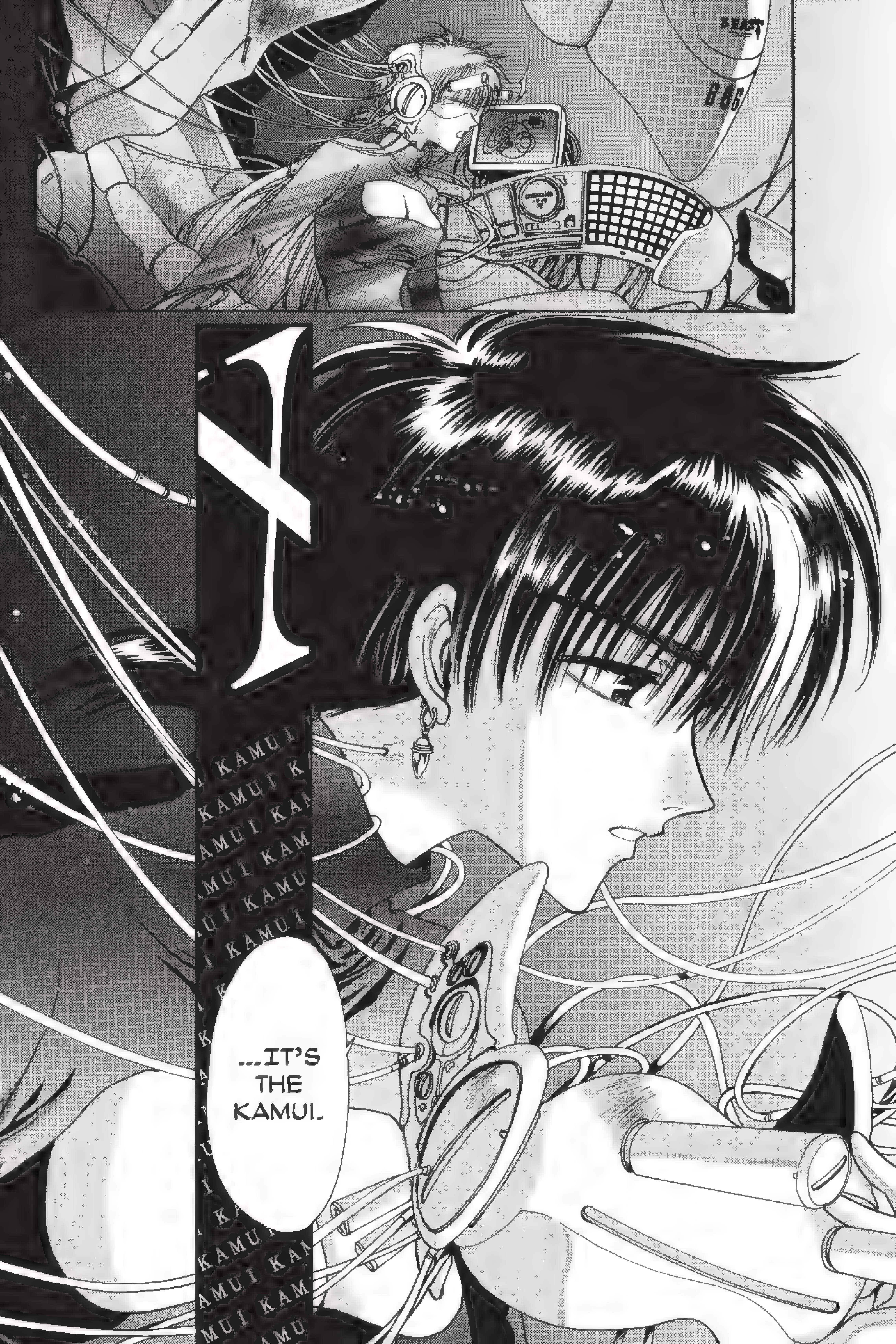

HE IS HERE.

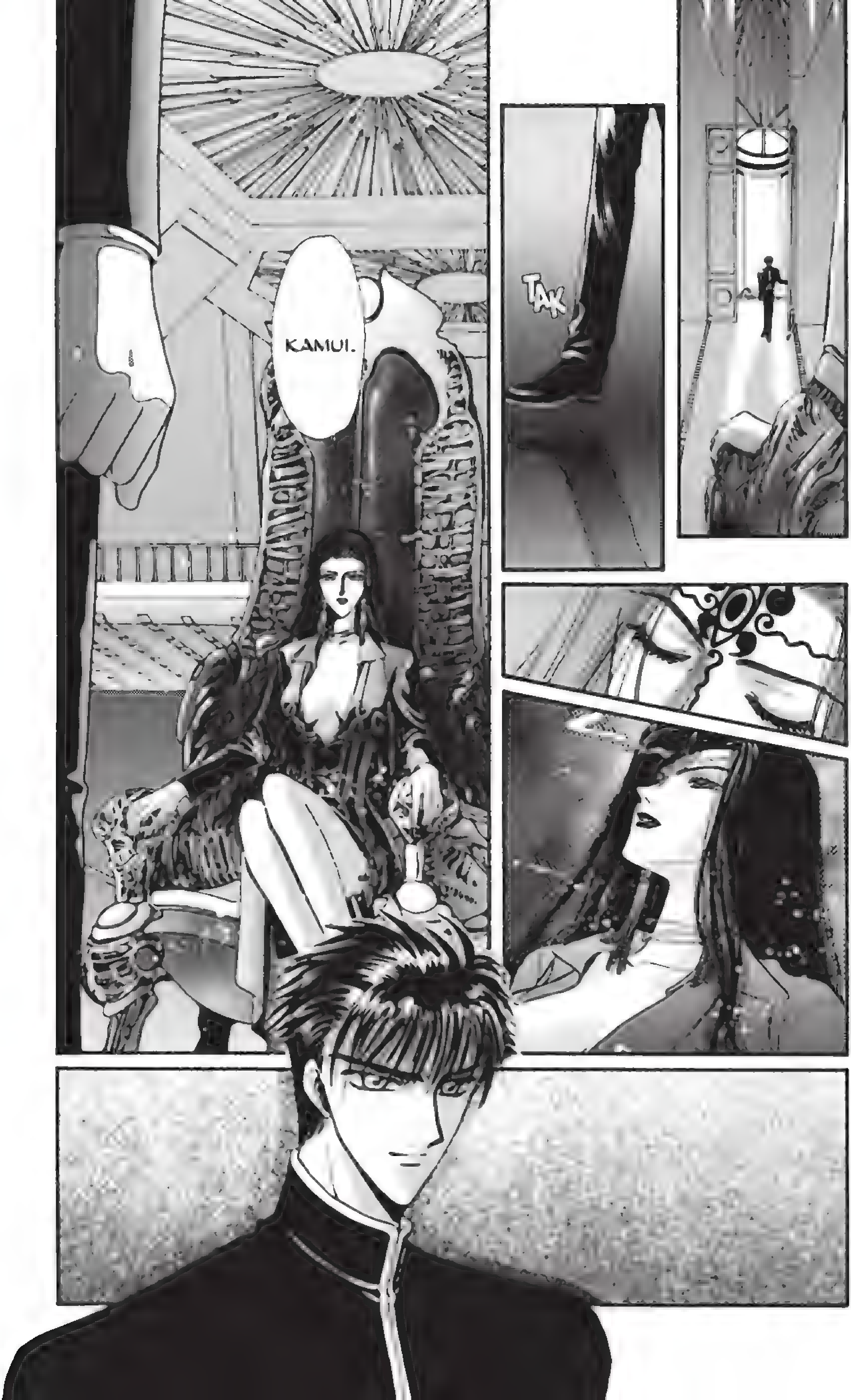

THE DREAM YOU SAW WILL COME TRUE.
Kanoe!
I'LL MAKE SURE OF IT.
You mustn't invite him in!
Kanoe !!

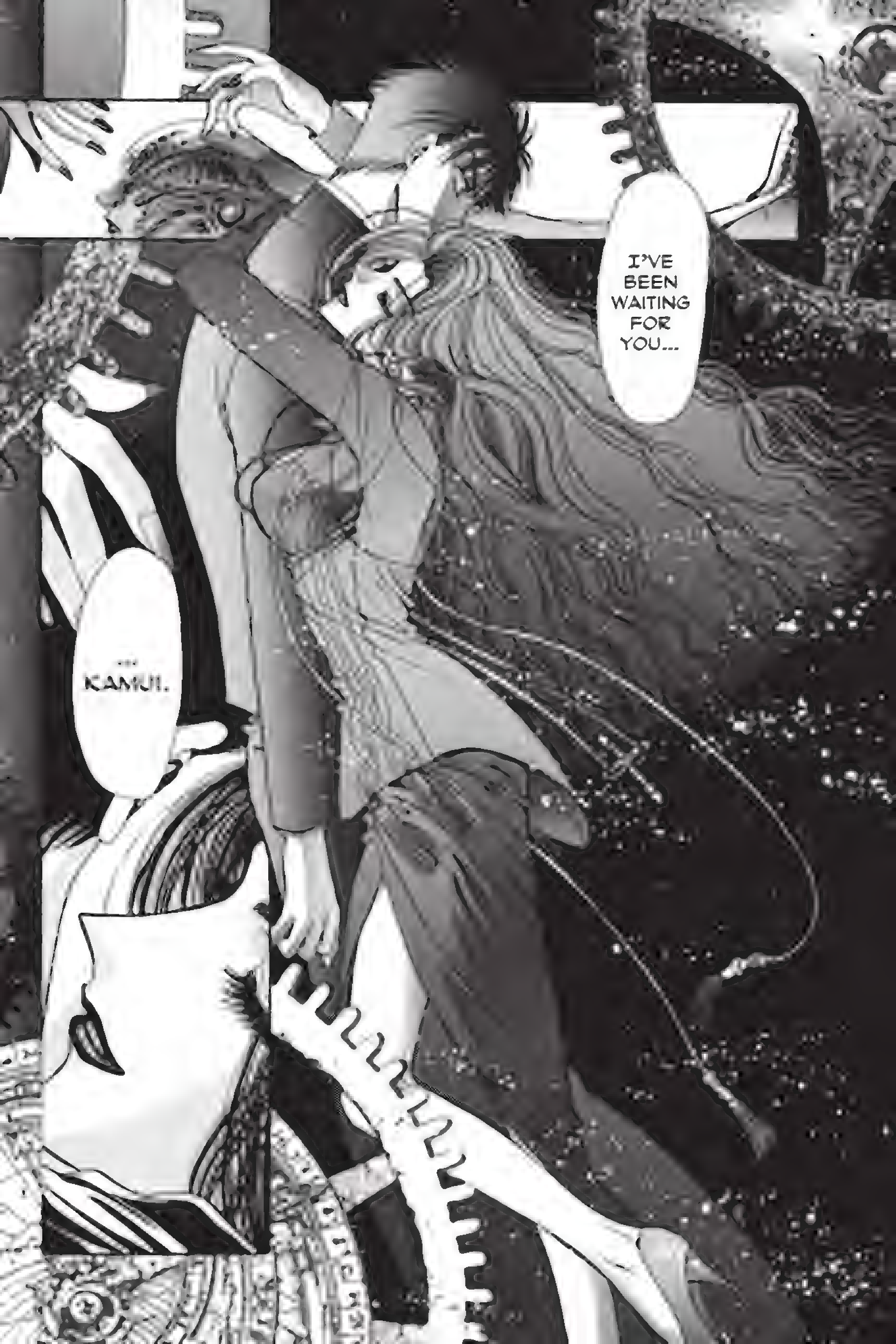

Kanoe
...

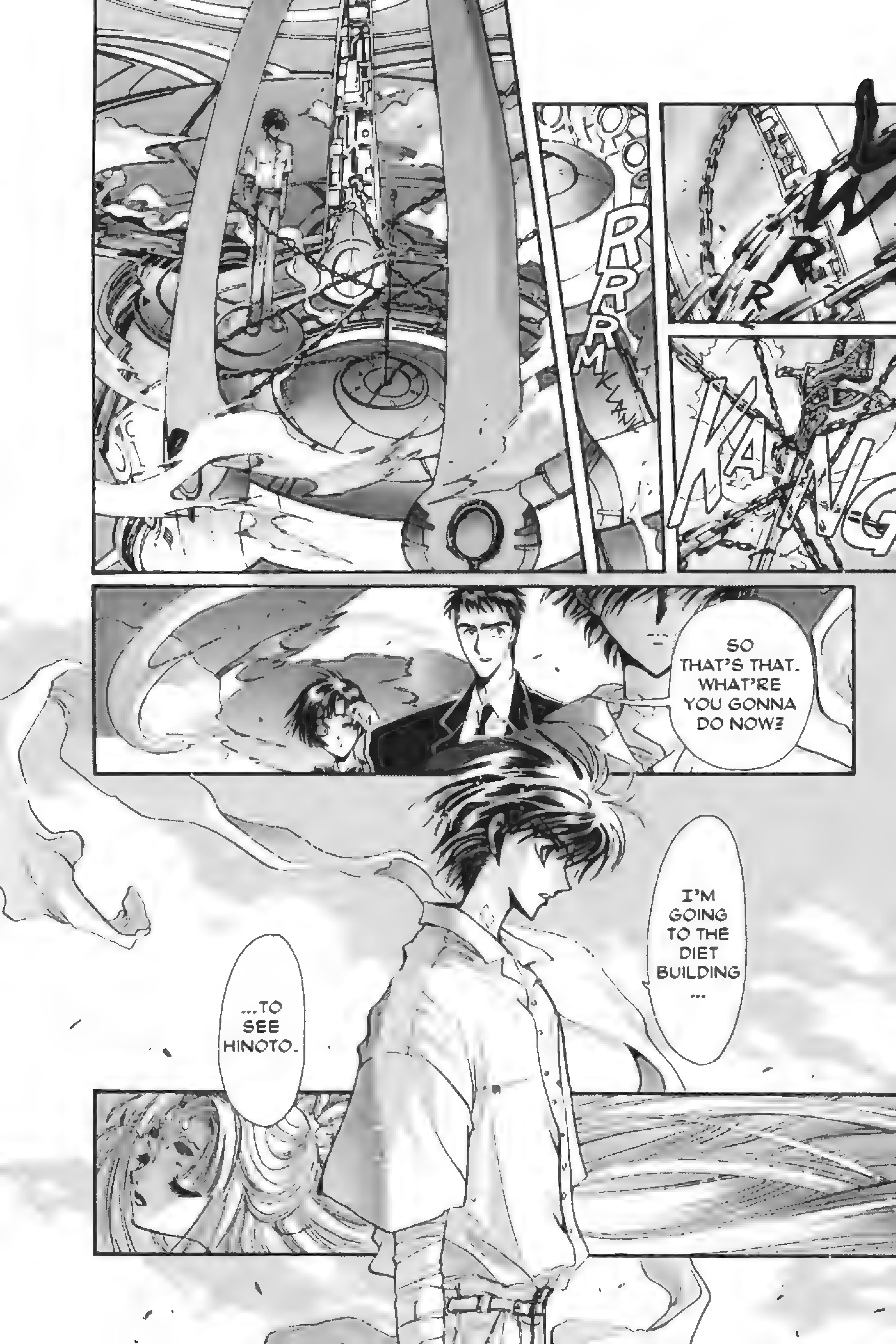

BEEP
BEEP
LEVEL
BEEP
SATSUKI, WHAT'S GOING ON?
BEEP!

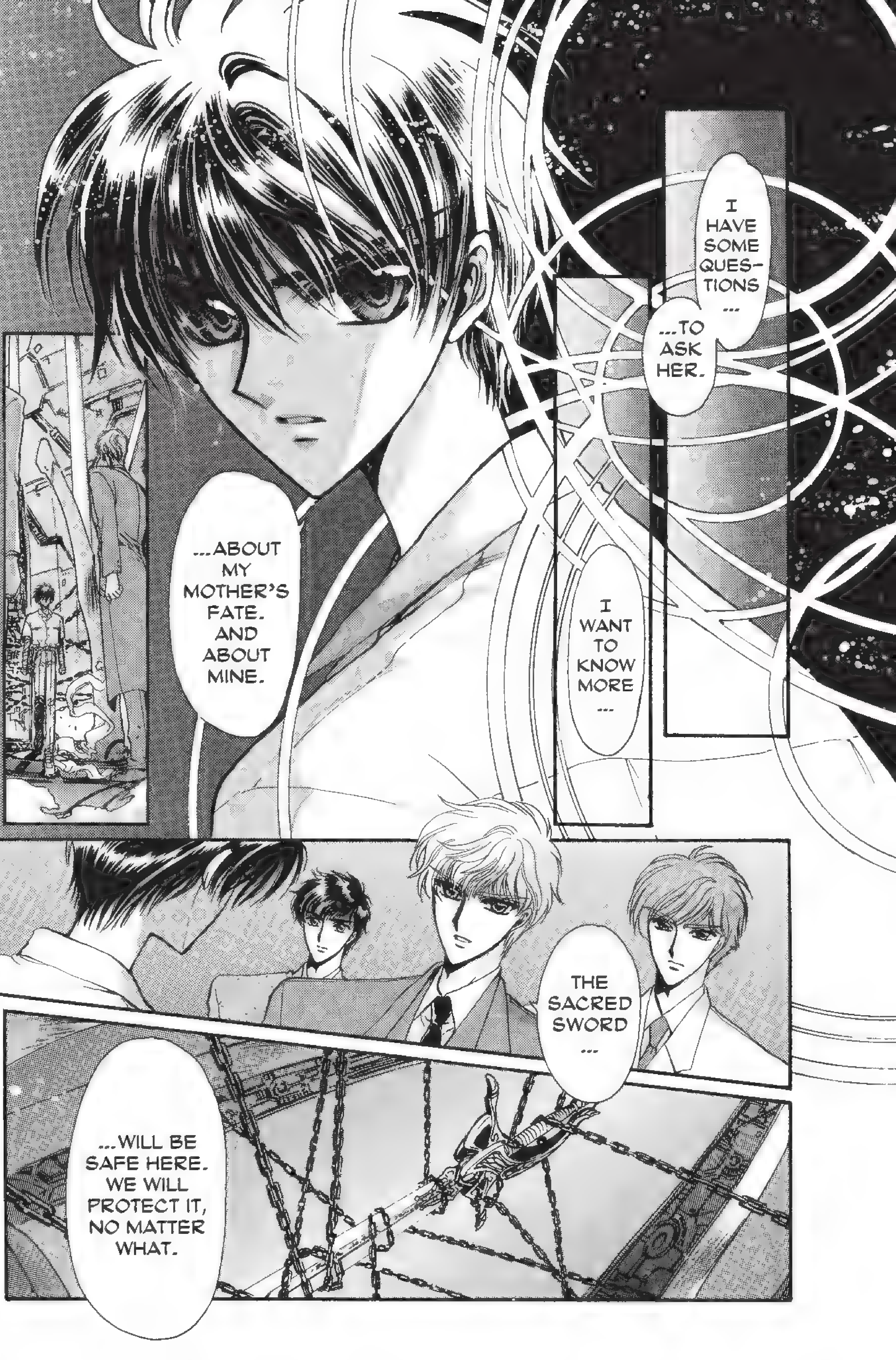

AMU
MUI
KAMUI

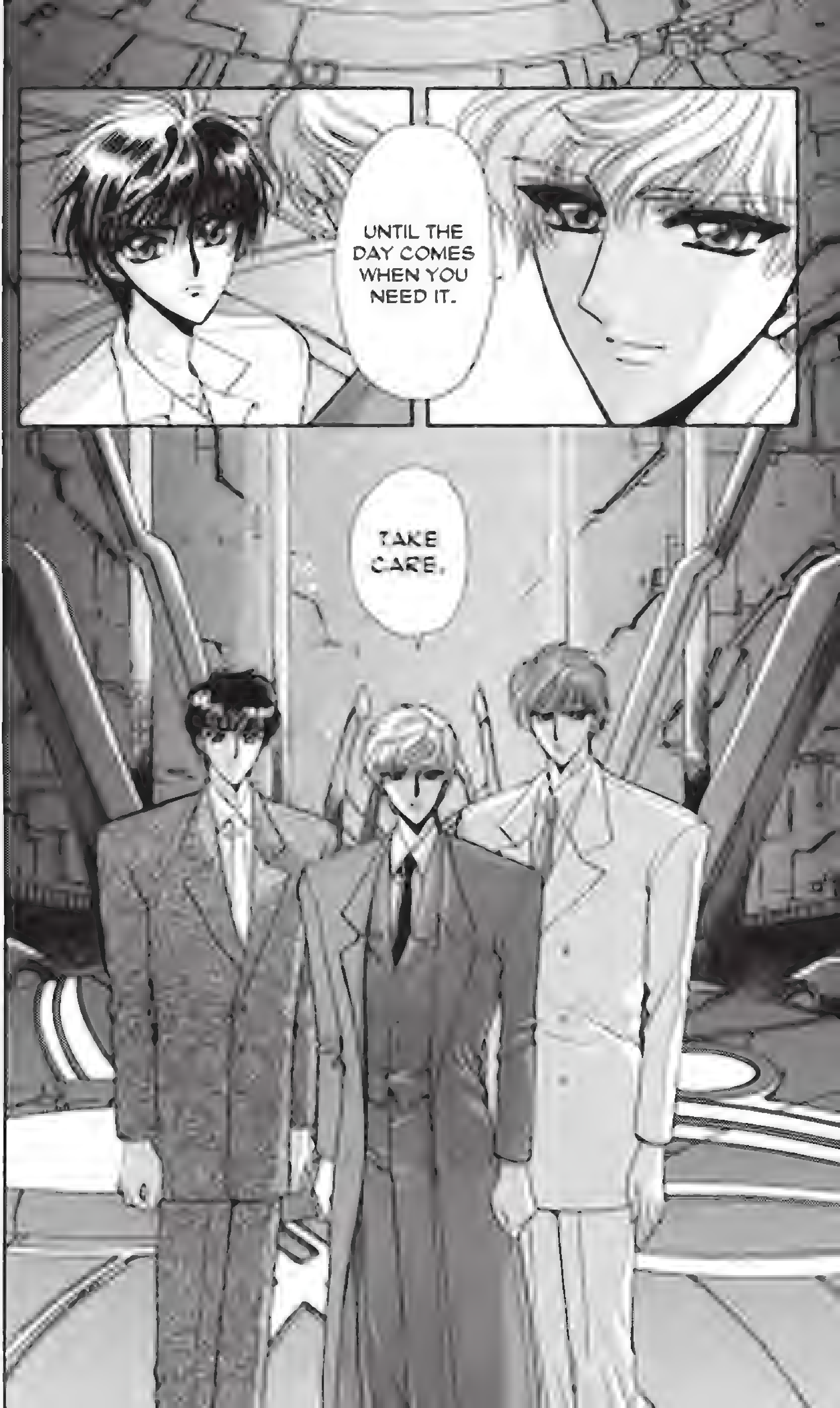

BEAST
666
X
KAMUI KAMUI KAMUI KAMUI KAMUI KAMUI
...IT'S THE KAMUI.

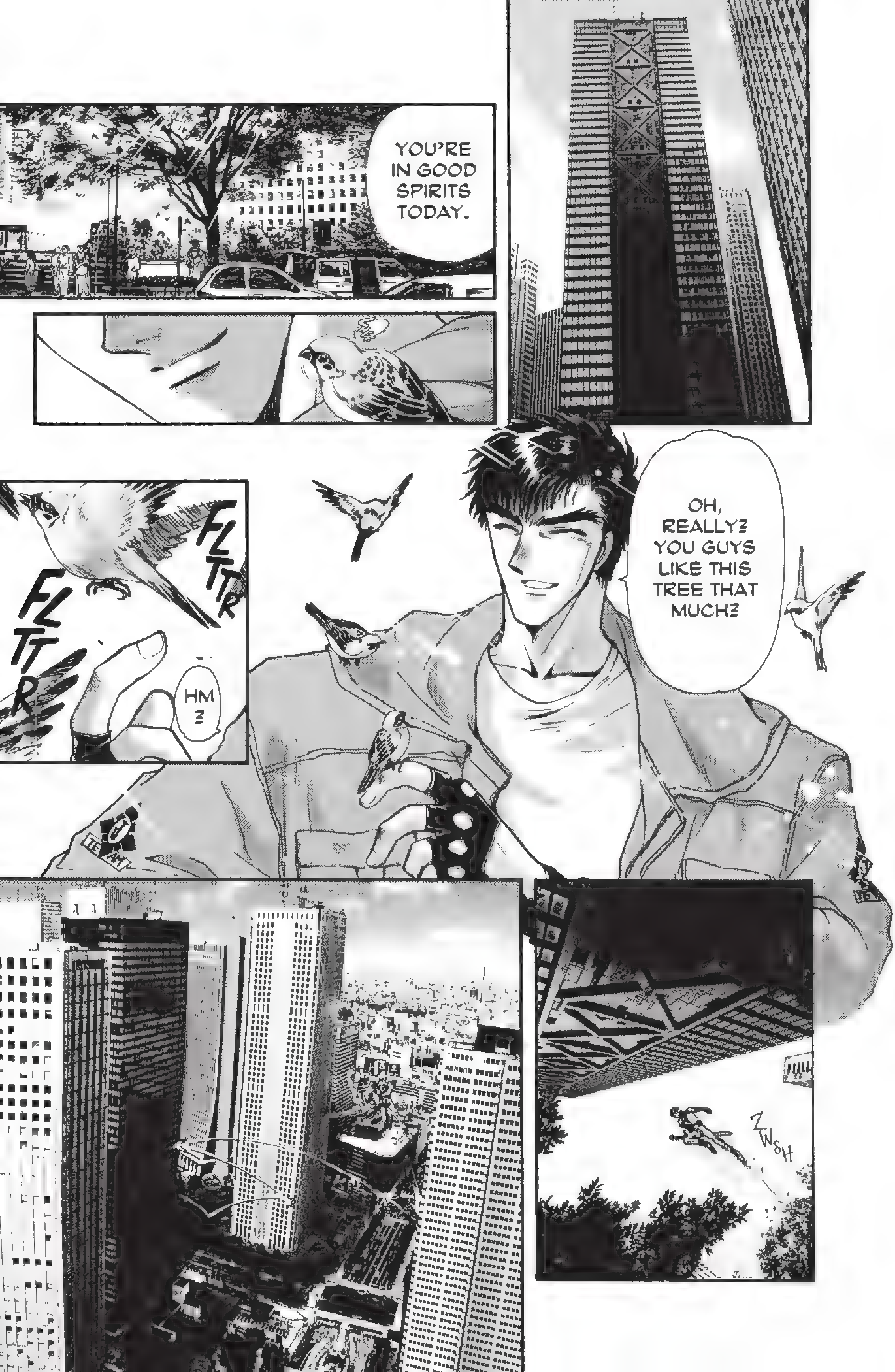

TAK
KAMUI.

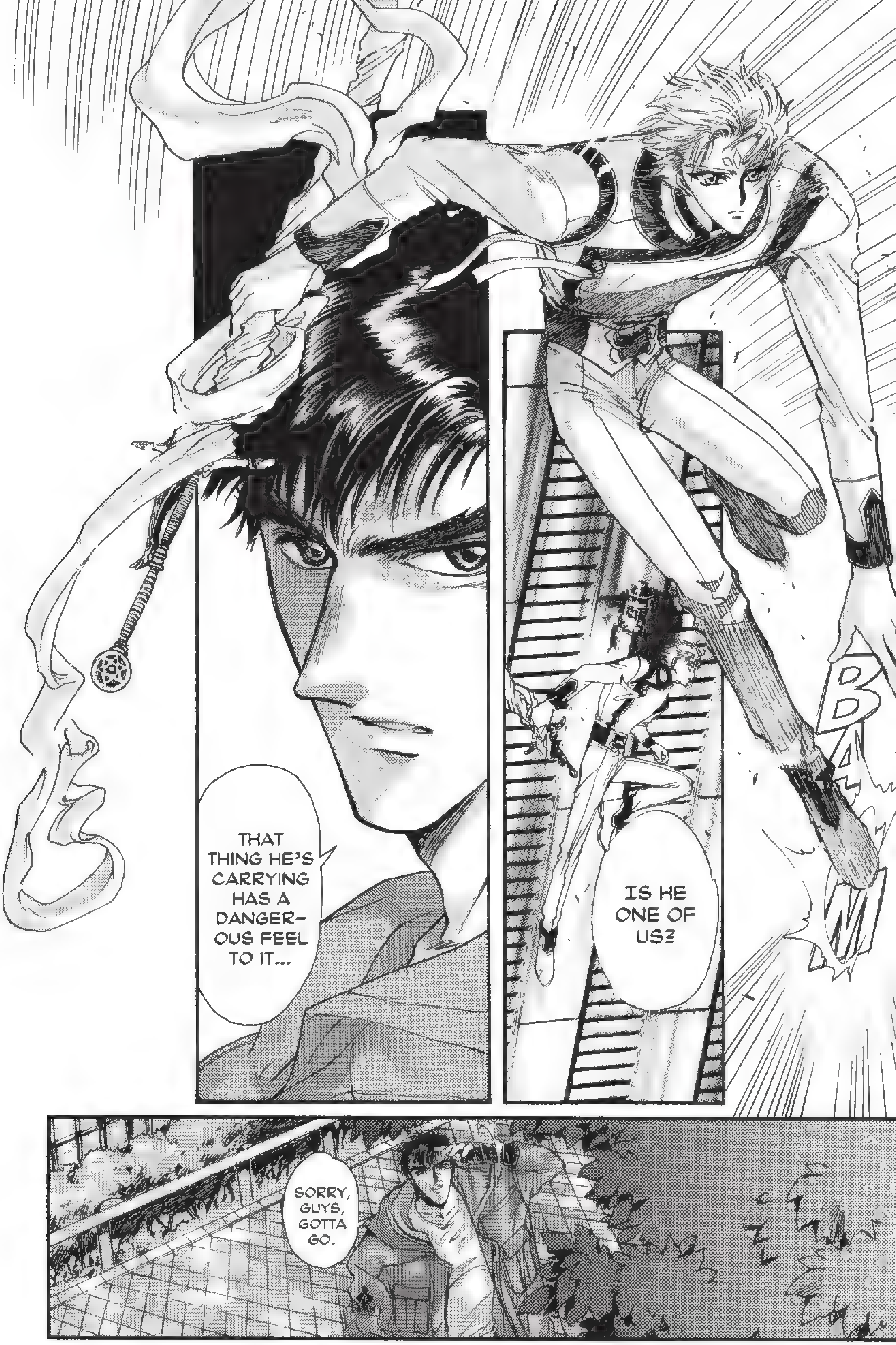

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU...
...KAMUI.

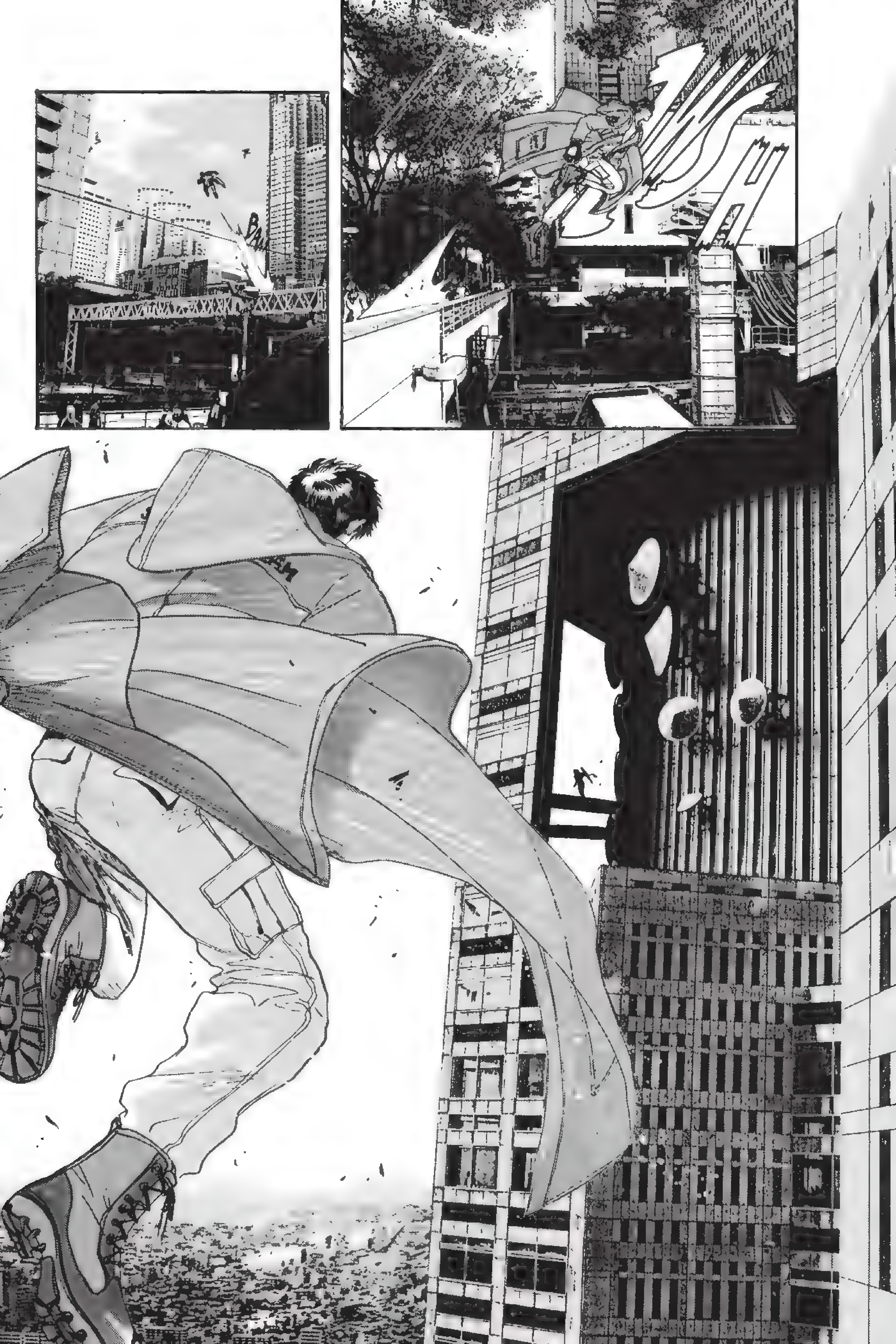

KA-N-G
RRRRM
SO THAT'S THAT. WHAT'RE YOU GONNA DO NOW?
I'M GOING TO THE DIET BUILDING...
...TO SEE HINOTO.]


I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS...
...TO ASK HER.
I WANT TO KNOW MORE...
...ABOUT MY MOTHER'S FATE. AND ABOUT MINE.
THE SACRED SWORD...
...WILL BE SAFE HERE. WE WILL PROTECT IT, NO MATTER WHAT.

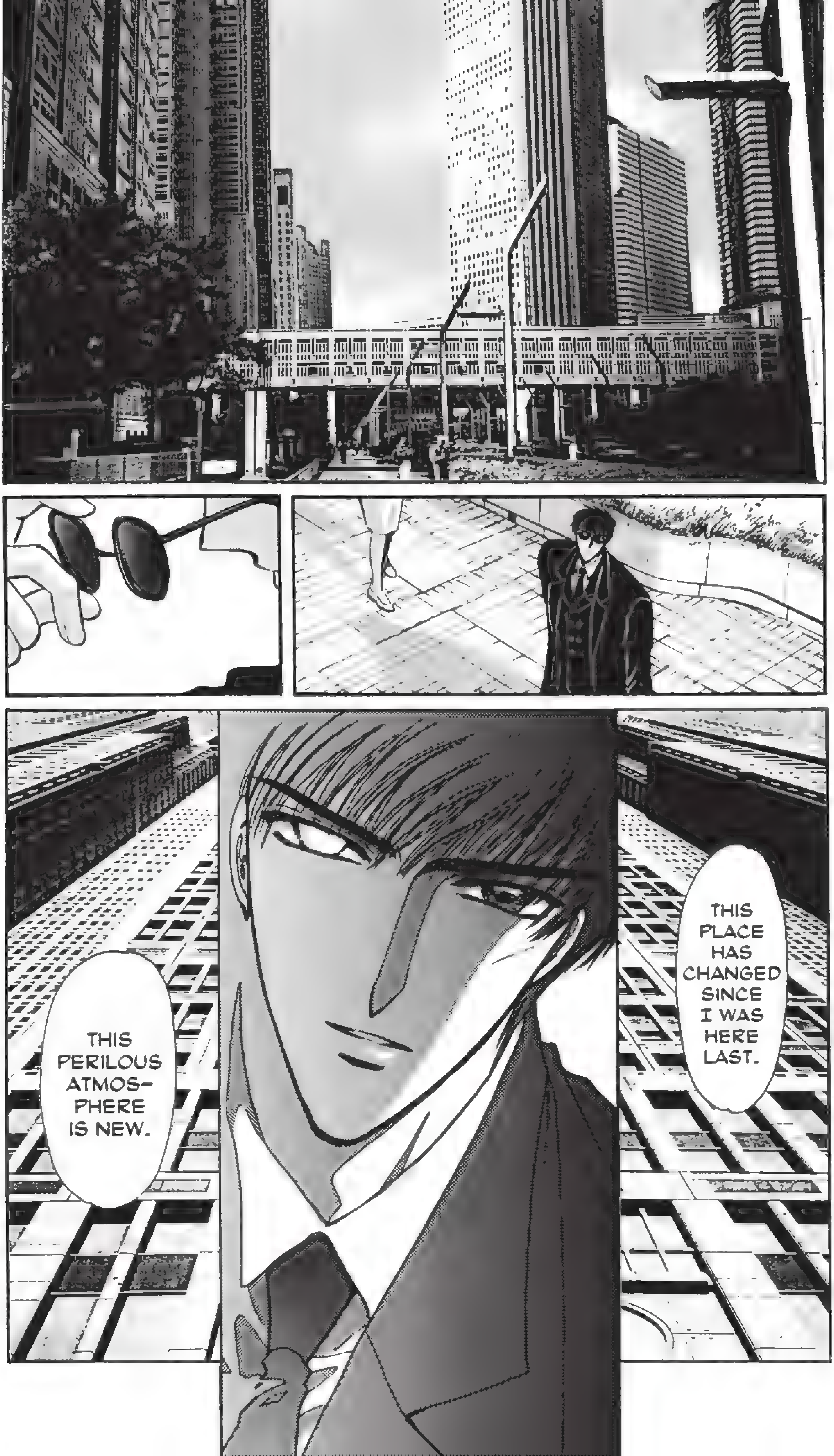

UNTIL THE DAY COMES WHEN YOU NEED IT.
TAKE CARE.

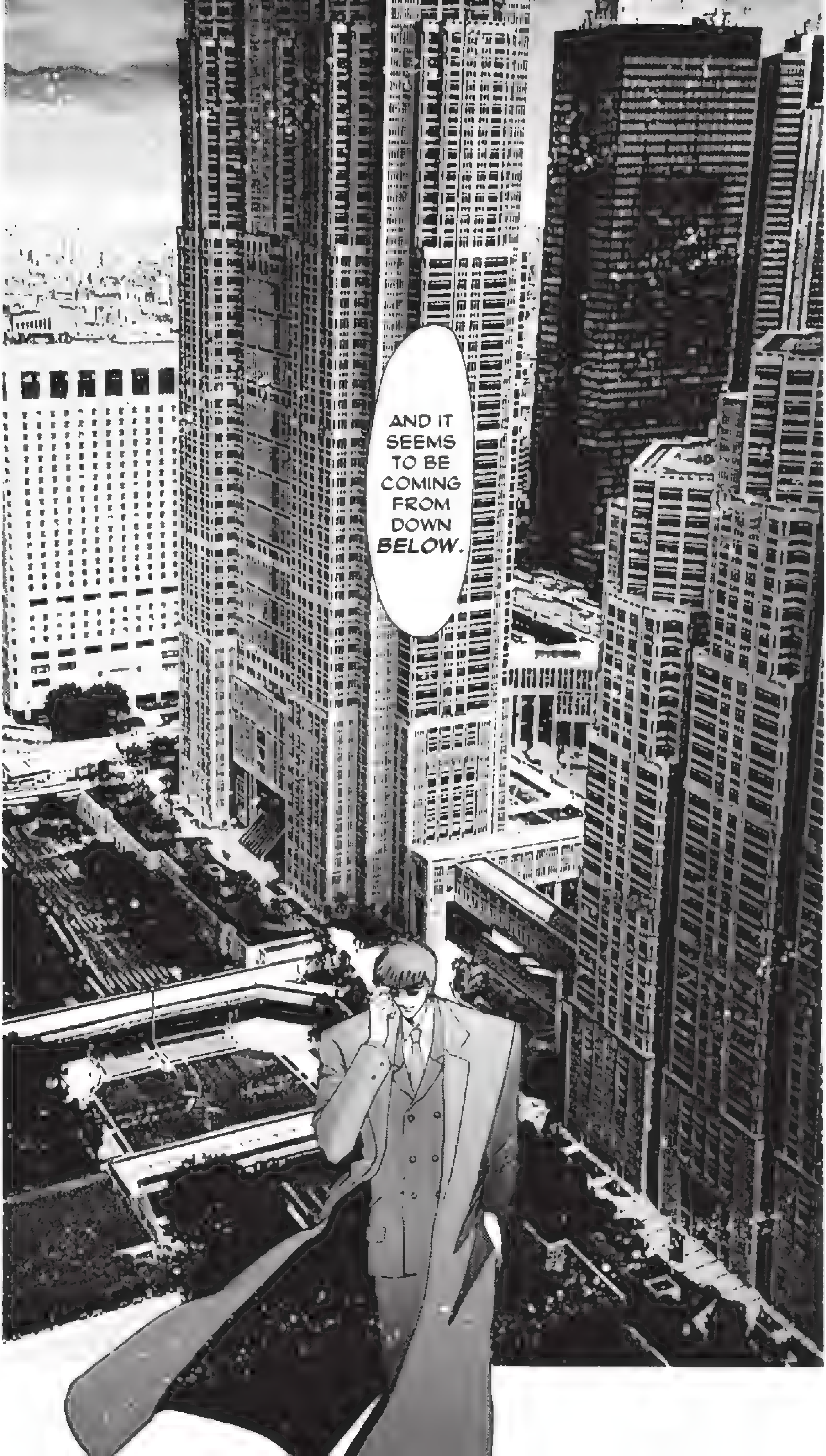

YOU'RE IN GOOD SPIRITS TODAY.
OH, REALLY? YOU GUYS LIKE THIS TREE THAT MUCH?
FLTTR
FLTTR
HM?
ZWSH

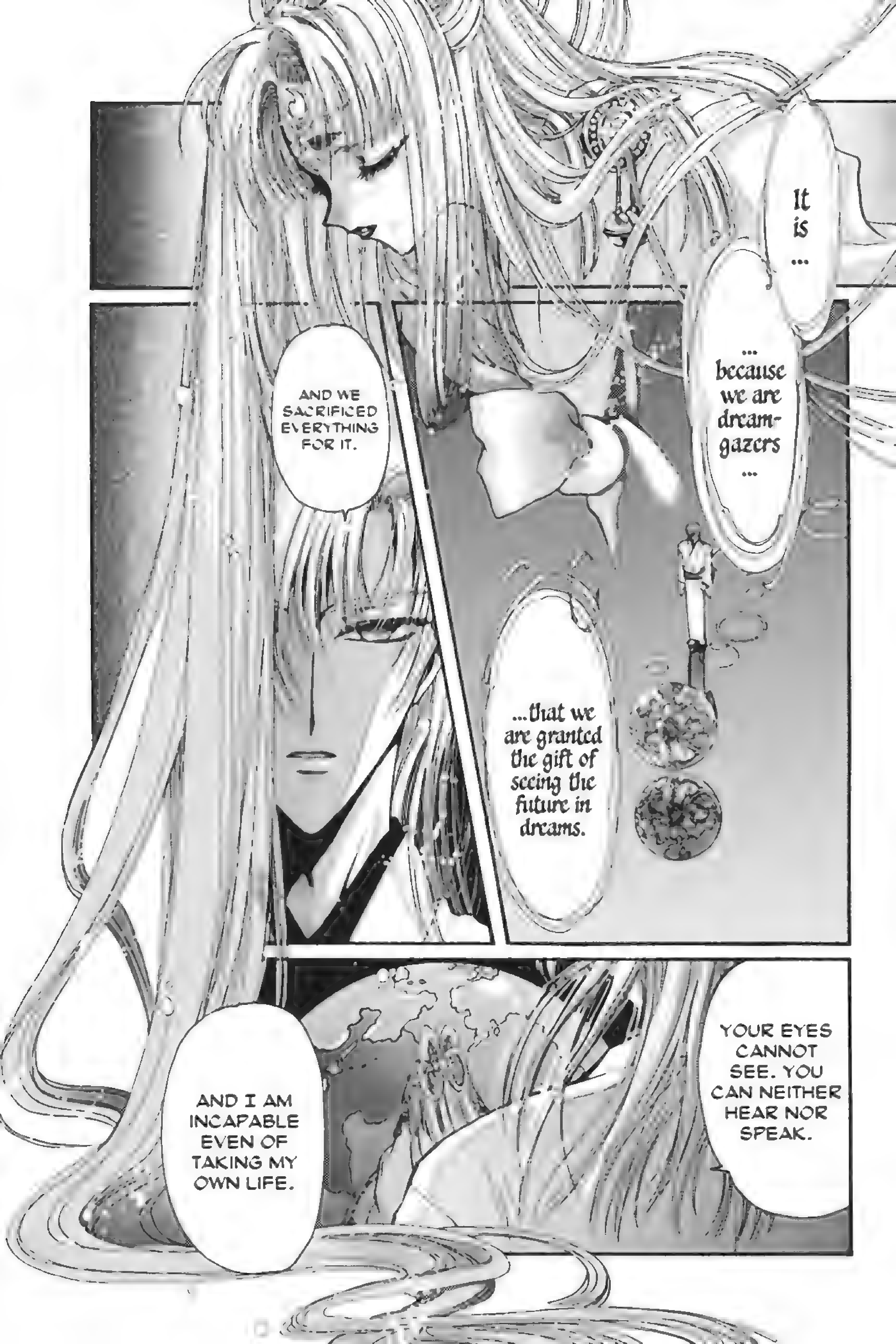

BAM
IS HE ONE OF US?
THAT THING HE'S CARRYING HAS A DANGEROUS FEEL TO IT...
SORRY, GUYS, GOTTA GO.

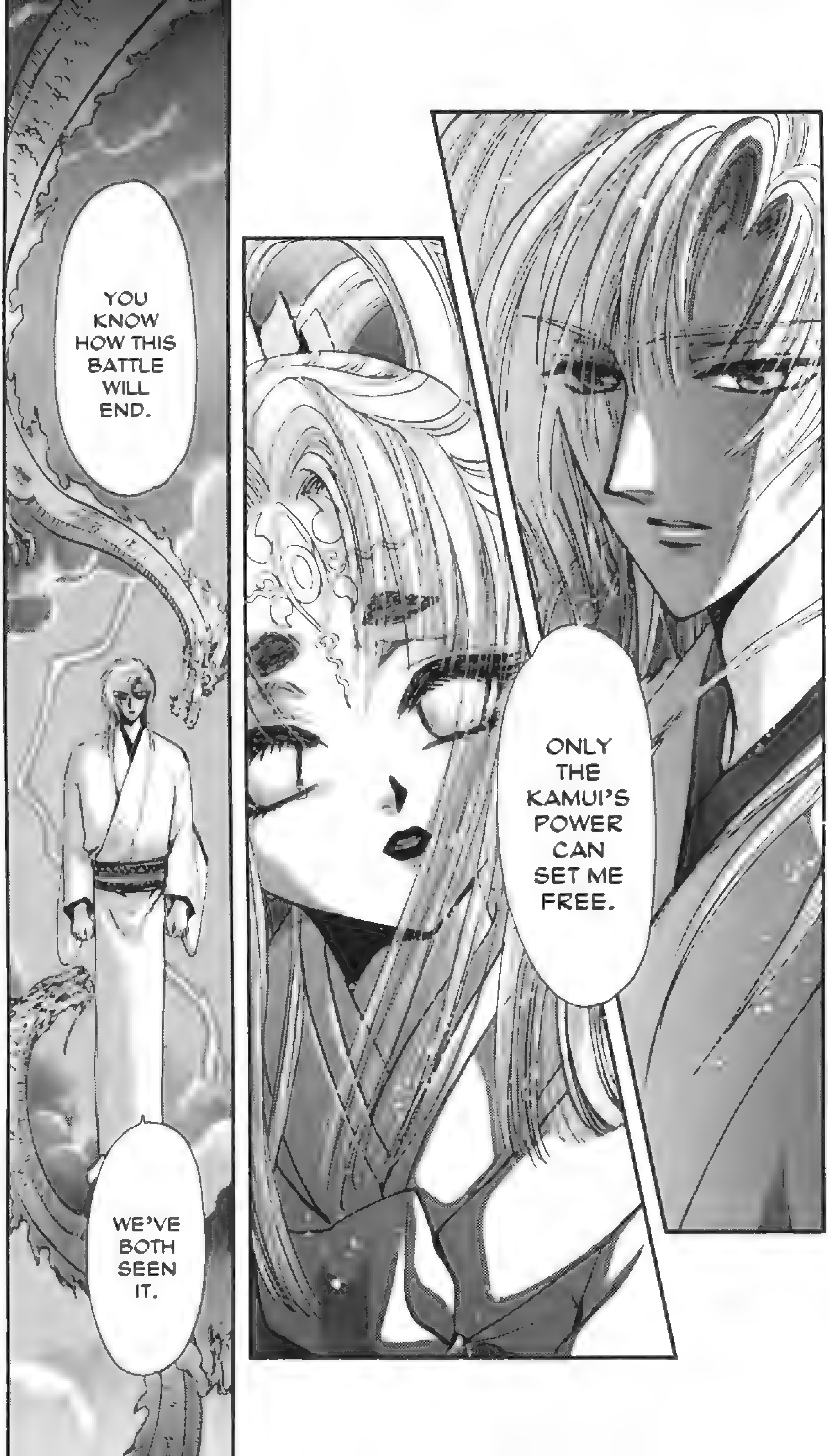


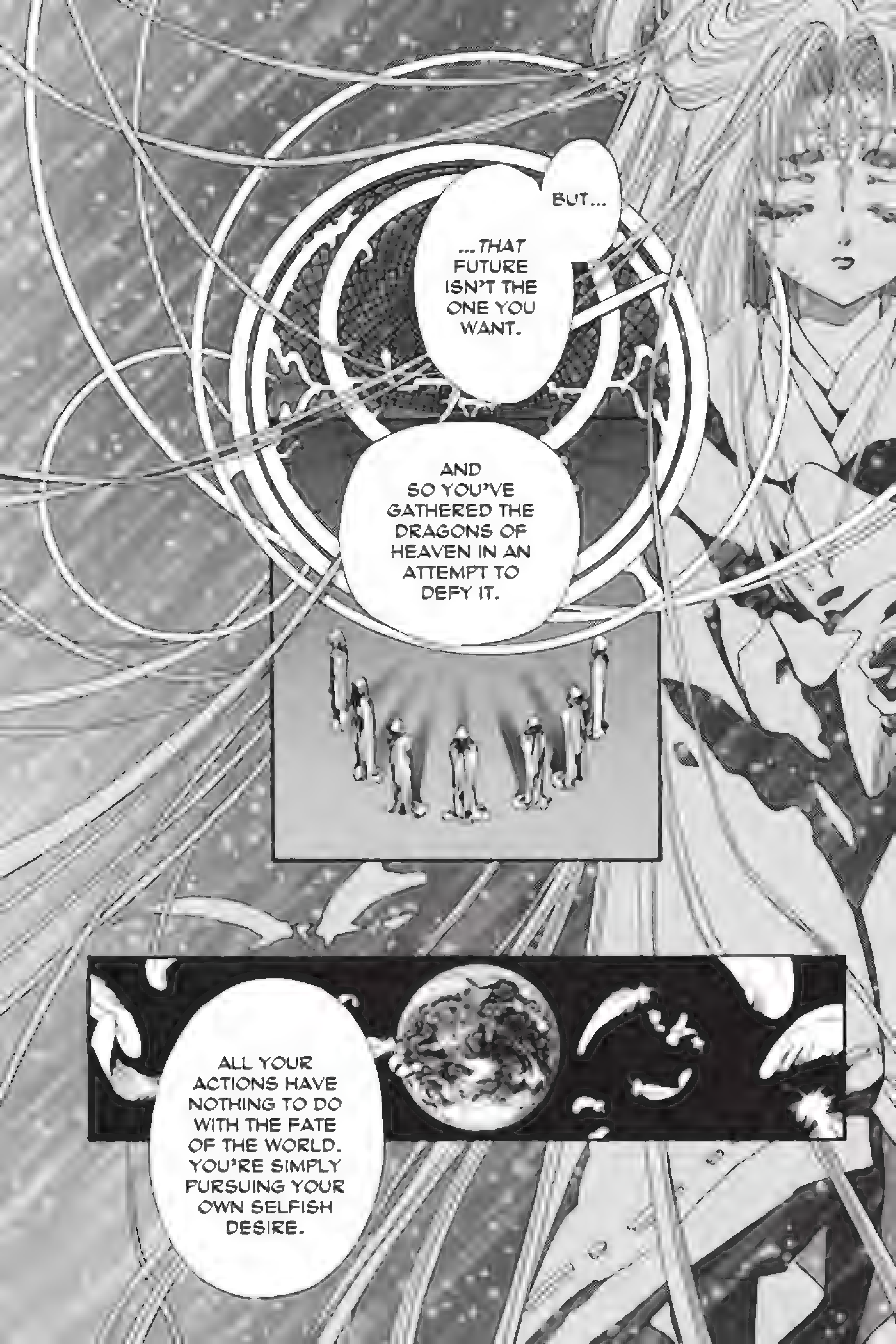
BAM

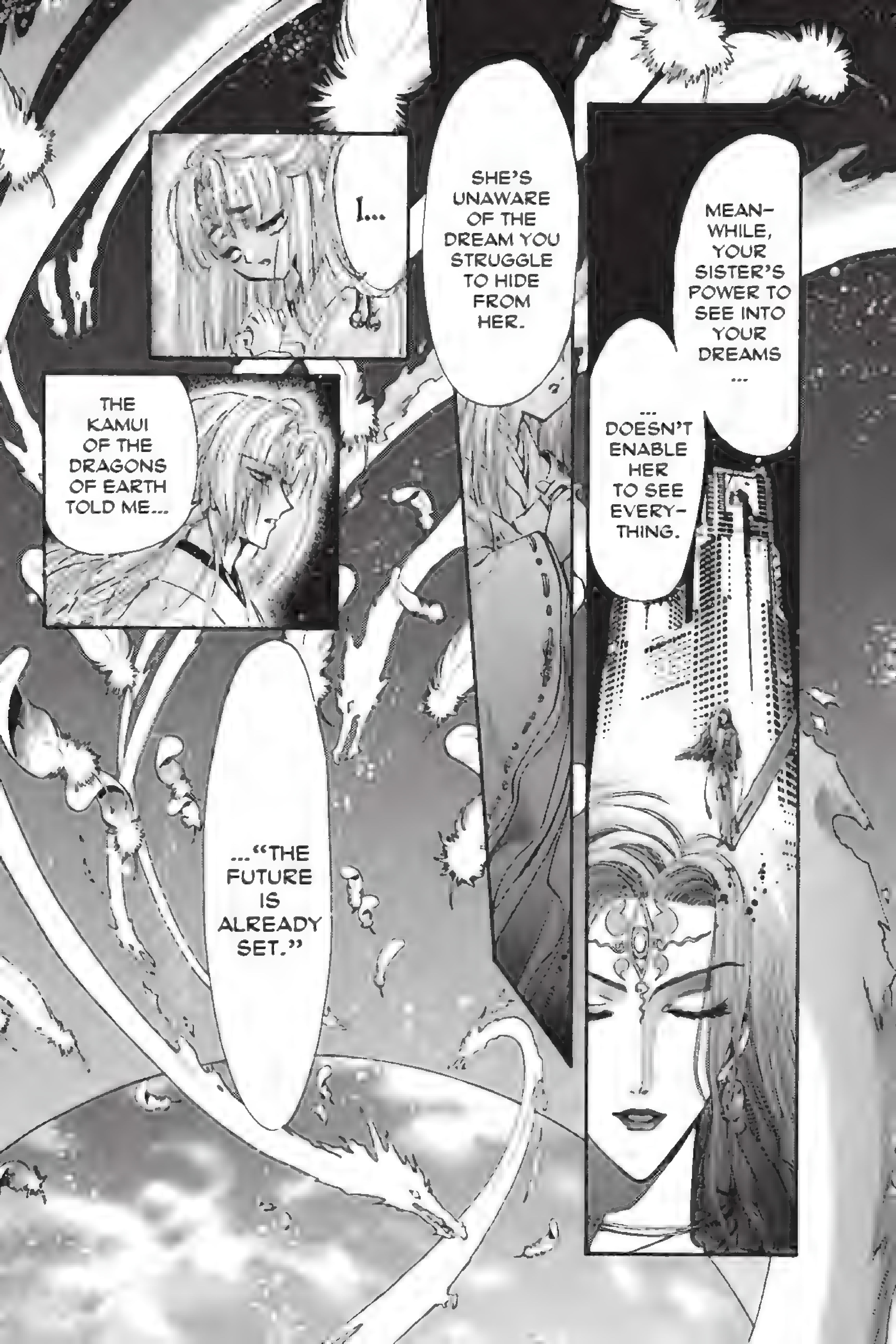

THIS PLACE HAS CHANGED SINCE I WAS HERE LAST.
THIS PERILOUS ATMOSPHERE IS NEW.

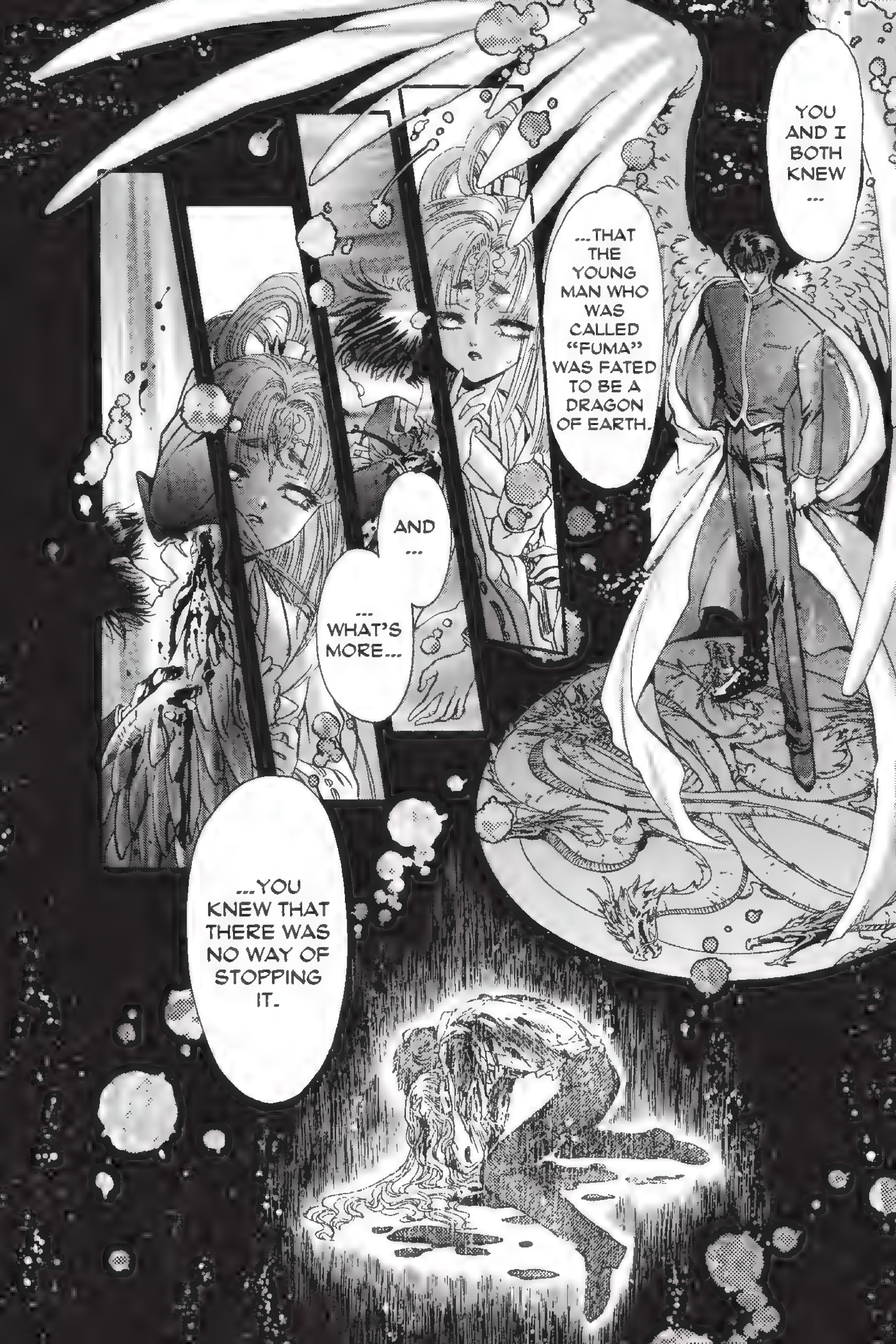

AND IT SEEMS TO BE COMING FROM DOWN *BELOW*.

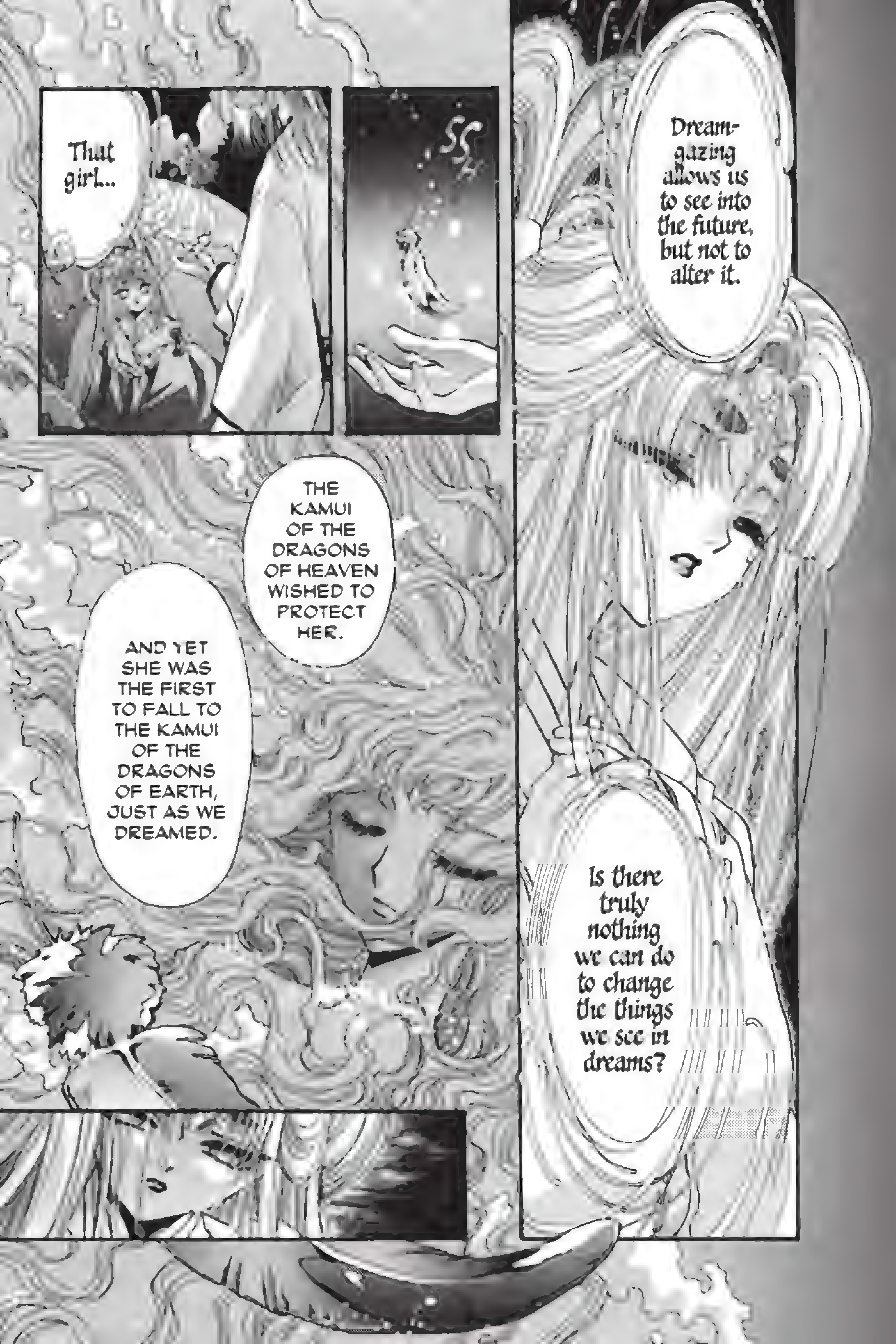

It is ...
... because we are dream-gazers ...
...that we are granted the gift of seeing the future in dreams.
AND WE SACRIFICED EVERYTHING FOR IT.
YOUR EYES CANNOT SEE. YOU CAN NEITHER HEAR NOR SPEAK.
AND I AM INCAPABLE EVEN OF TAKING MY OWN LIFE.

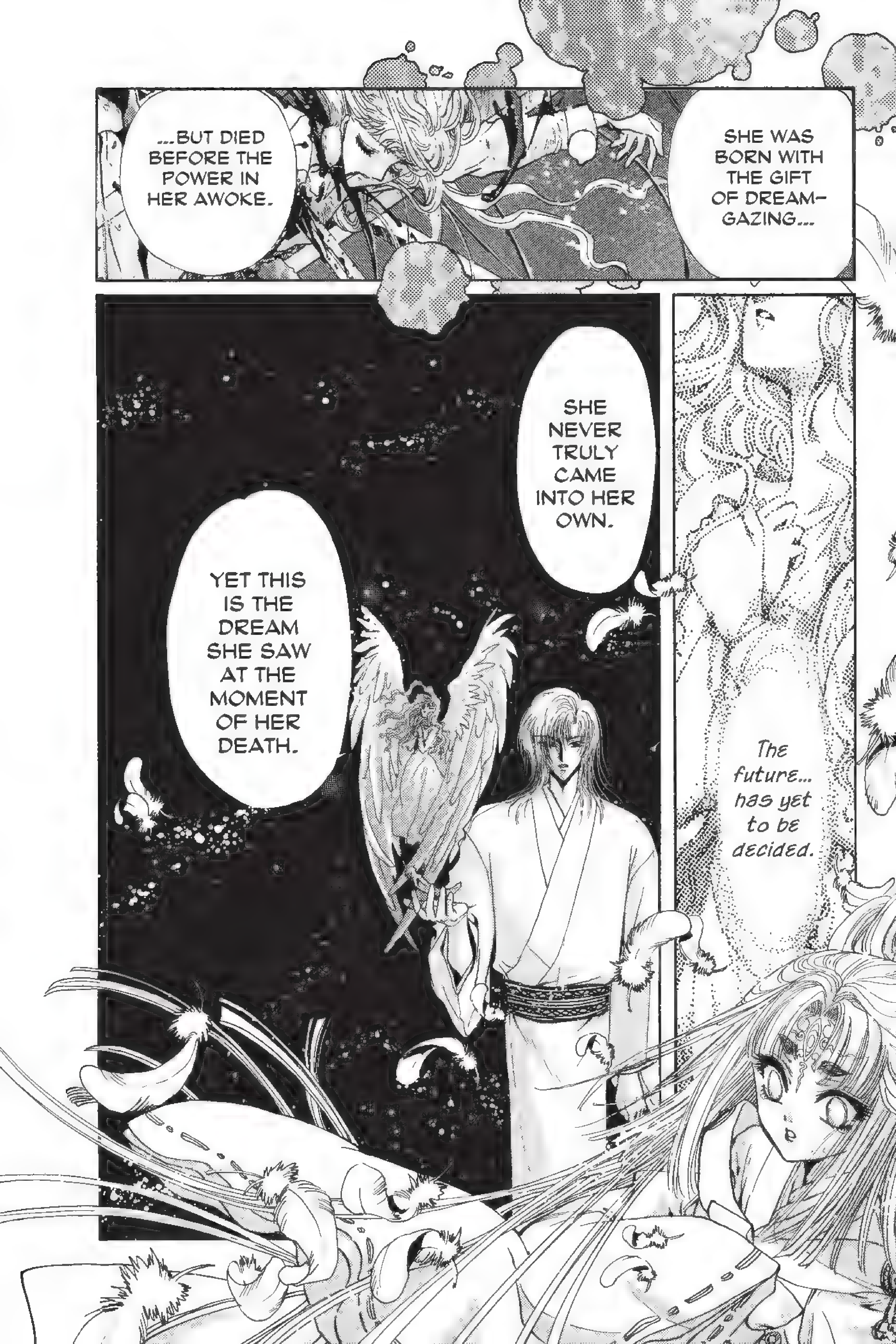

ONLY THE KAMUI'S POWER CAN SET ME FREE.
YOU KNOW HOW THIS BATTLE WILL END.
WE'VE BOTH SEEN IT.

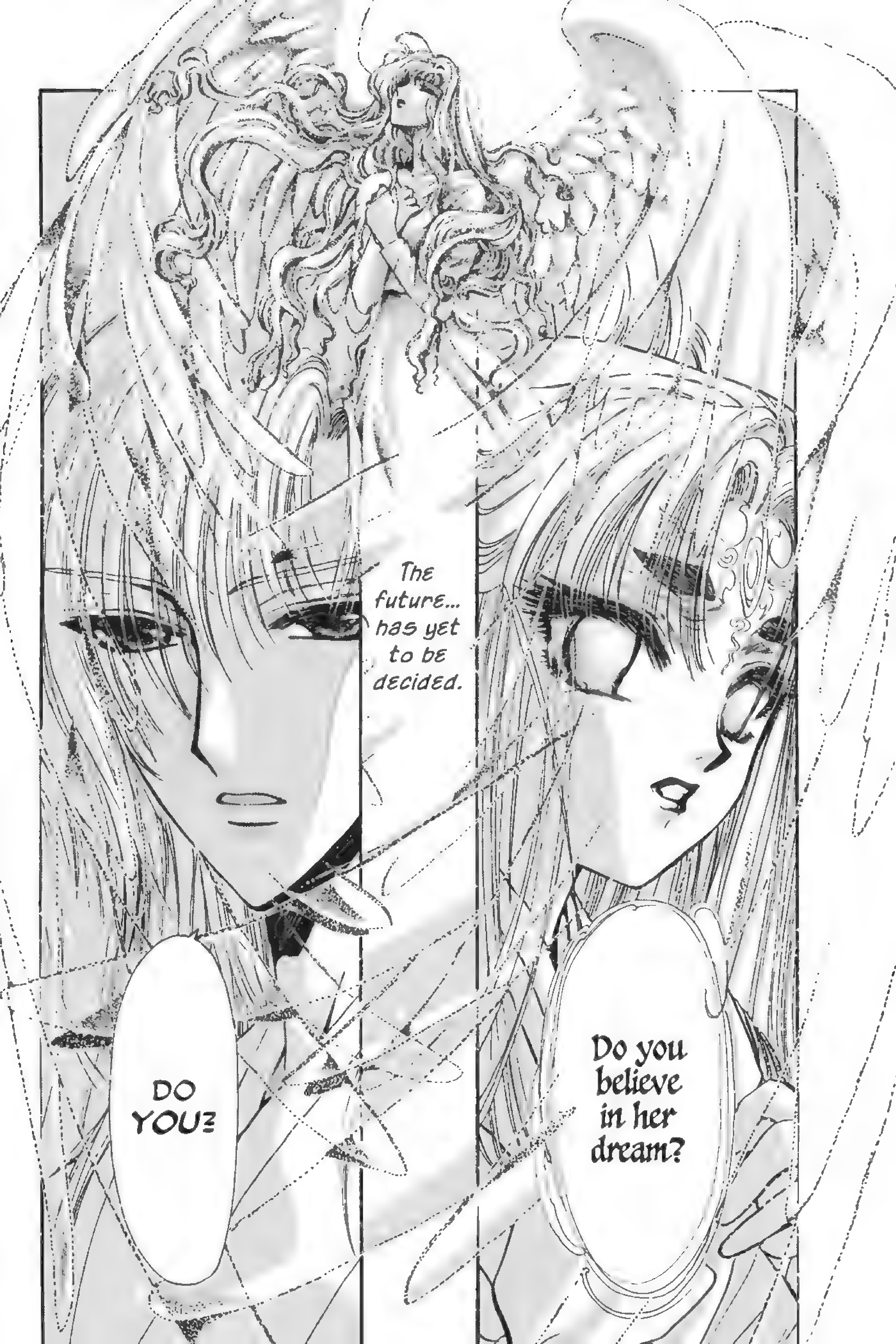

BUT...
...THAT FUTURE ISN'T THE ONE YOU WANT.
AND SO YOU'VE GATHERED THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN IN AN ATTEMPT TO DEFY IT.
ALL YOUR ACTIONS HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH THE FATE OF THE WORLD. YOU'RE SIMPLY PURSUING YOUR OWN SELFISH DESIRE.

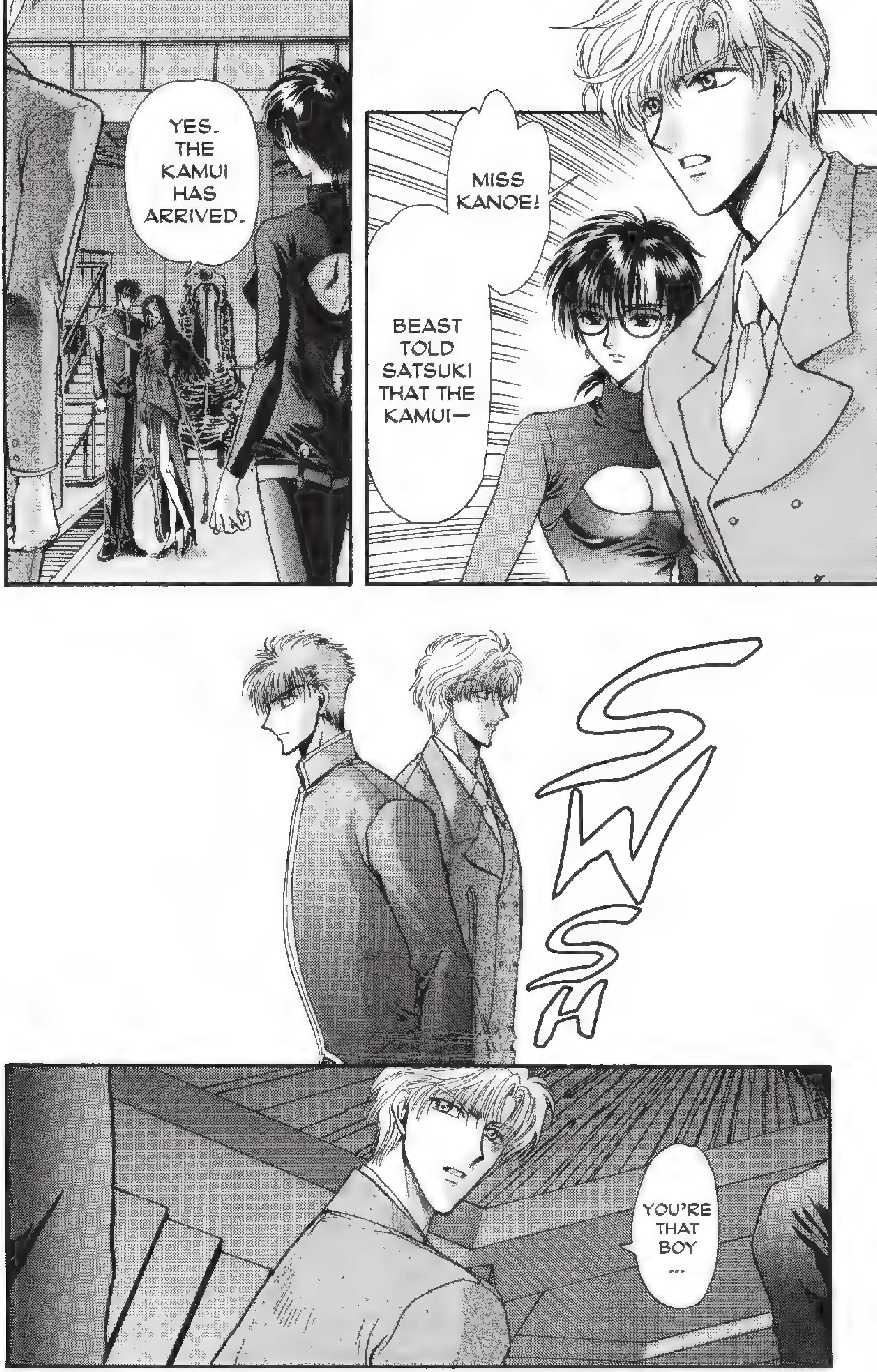

MEAN-WHILE, YOUR SISTER'S POWER TO SEE INTO YOUR DREAMS ...
... DOESN'T ENABLE HER TO SEE EVERYTHING.
SHE'S UNAWARE OF THE DREAM YOU STRUGGLE TO HIDE FROM HER.
I...
THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH TOLD ME...
..."THE FUTURE IS ALREADY SET."

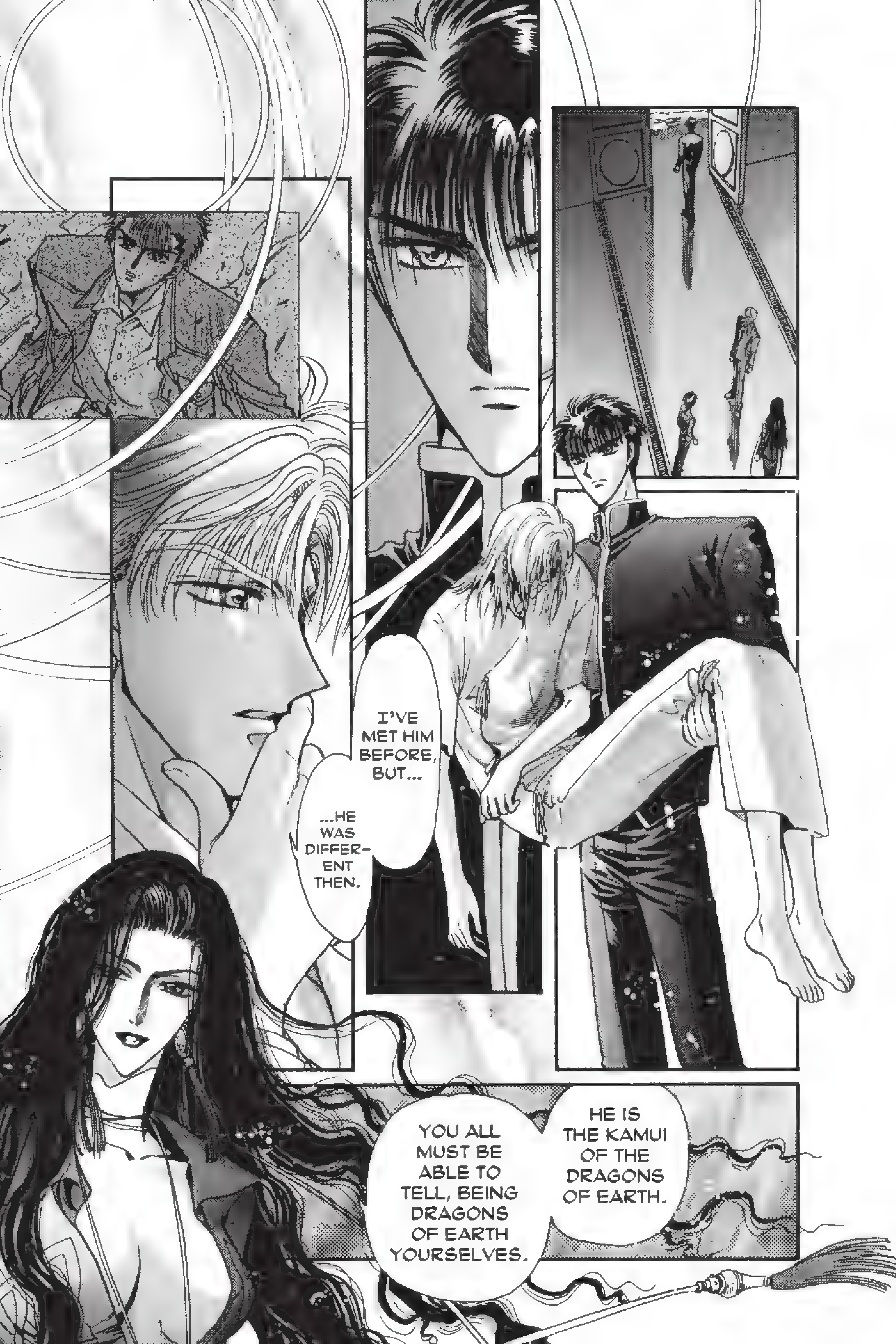

YOU AND I BOTH KNEW ...
...THAT THE YOUNG MAN WHO WAS CALLED "FUMA" WAS FATED TO BE A DRAGON OF EARTH.
AND ...
... WHAT'S MORE...
...YOU KNEW THAT THERE WAS NO WAY OF STOPPING IT.

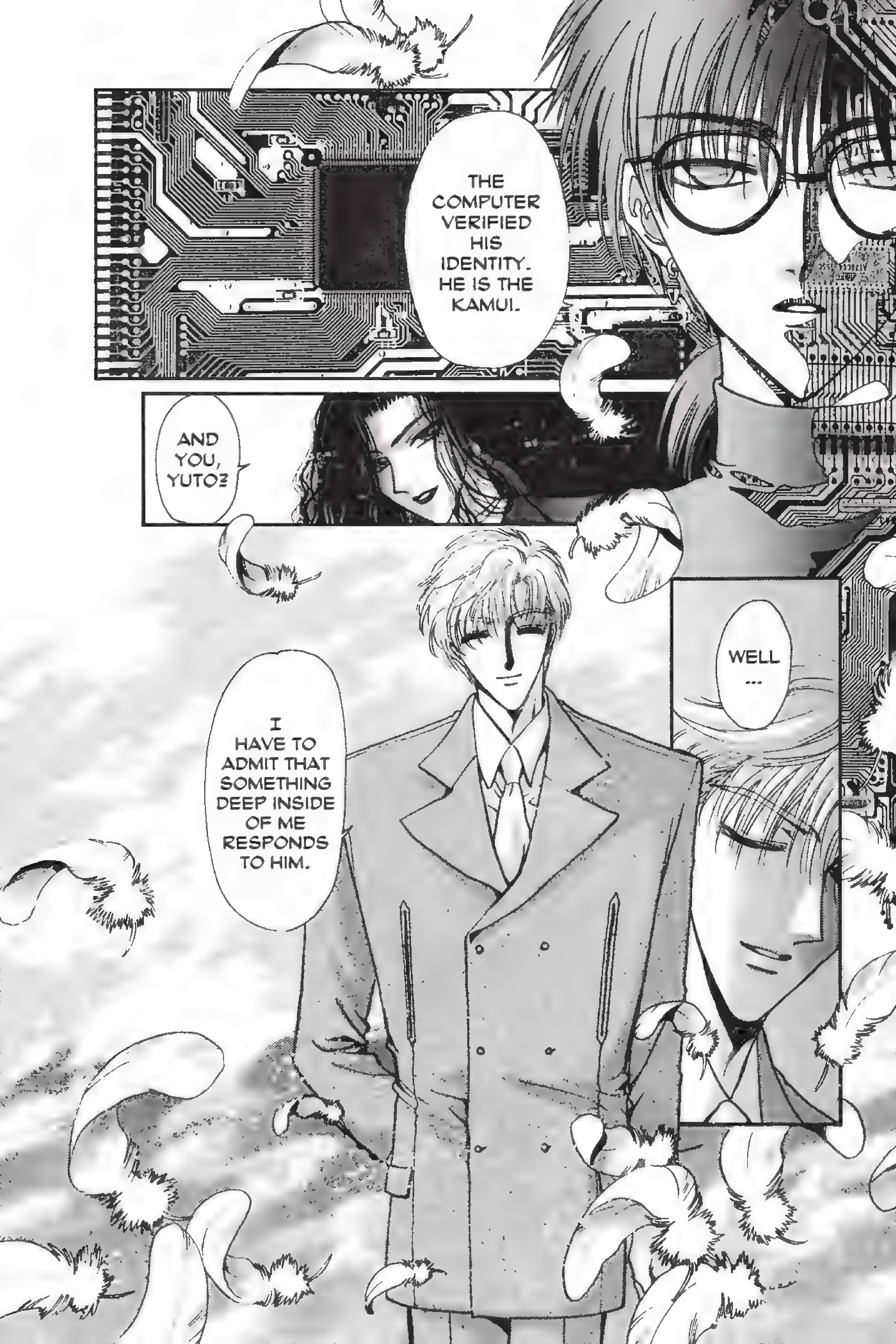

Dream-gazing allows us to see into the future, but not to alter it.
Is there truly nothing we can do to change the things we see in dreams?
SS
That girl...
THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN WISHED TO PROTECT HER.
AND YET SHE WAS THE FIRST TO FALL TO THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH, JUST AS WE DREAMED.

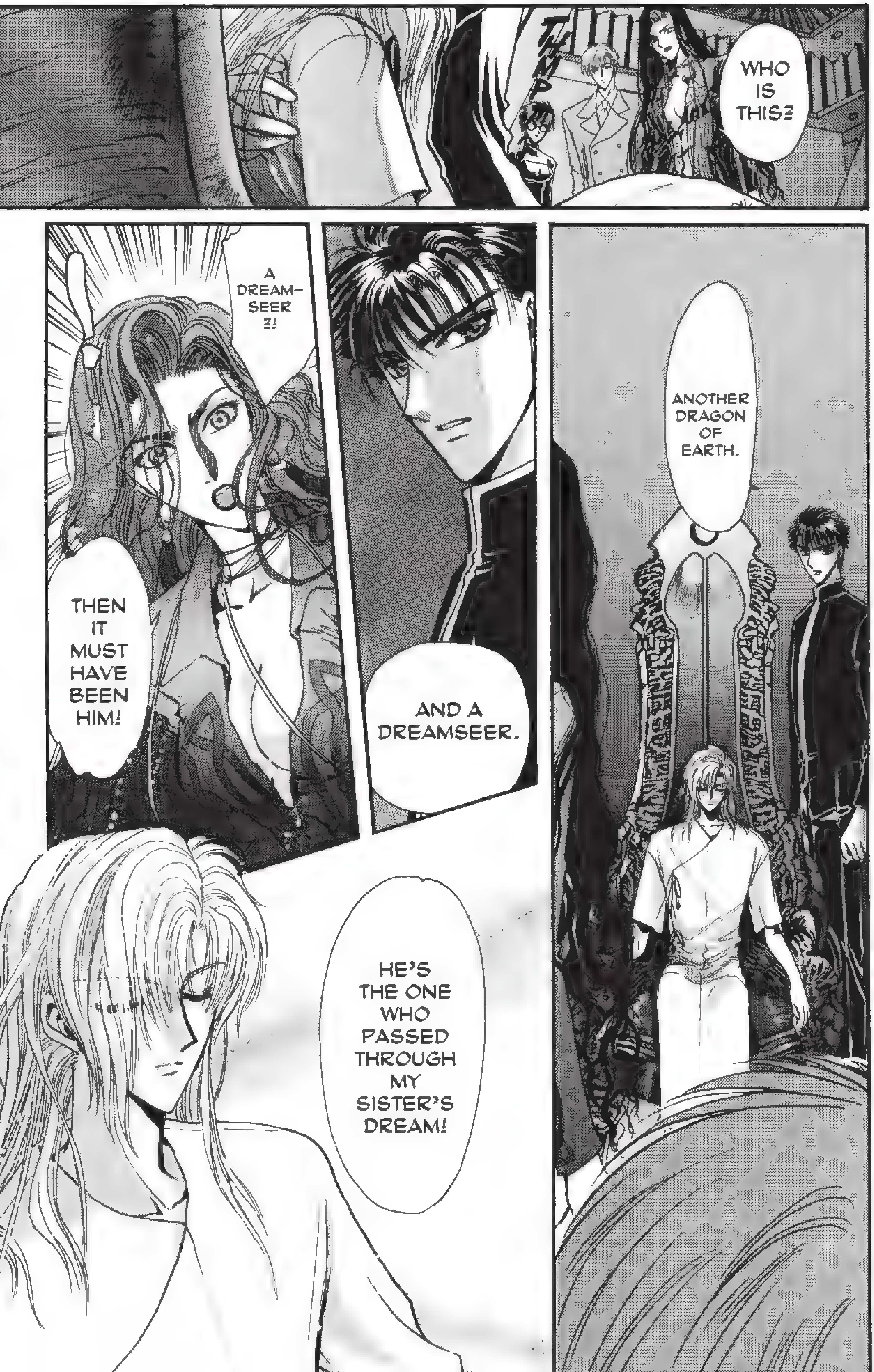

SHE WAS BORN WITH THE GIFT OF DREAM-GAZING...
...BUT DIED BEFORE THE POWER IN HER AWOKE.
SHE NEVER TRULY CAME INTO HER OWN.
YET THIS IS THE DREAM SHE SAW AT THE MOMENT OF HER DEATH.
The future... has yet to be decided.

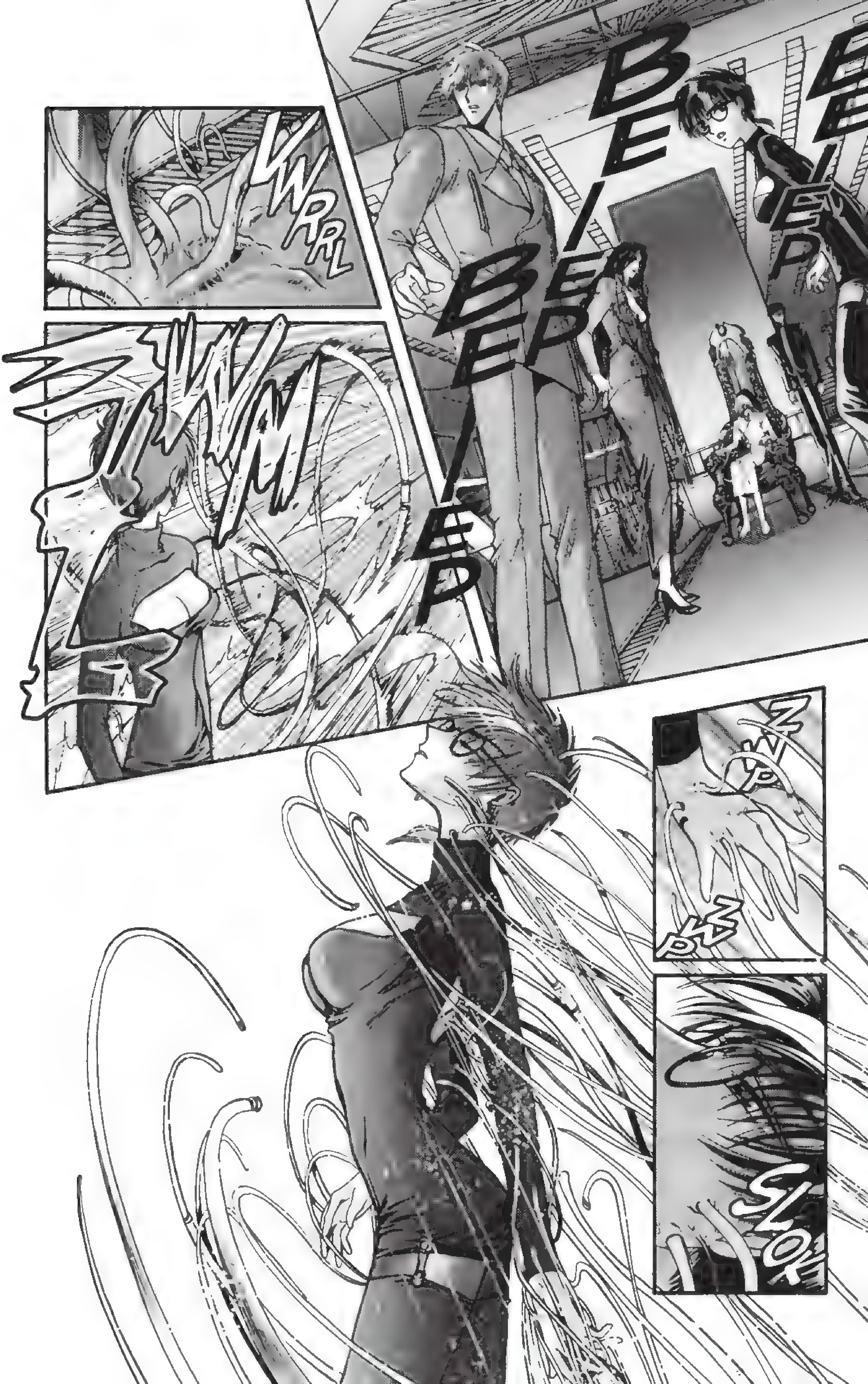

The future... has yet to be decided.
Do you believe in her dream?
DO YOU?

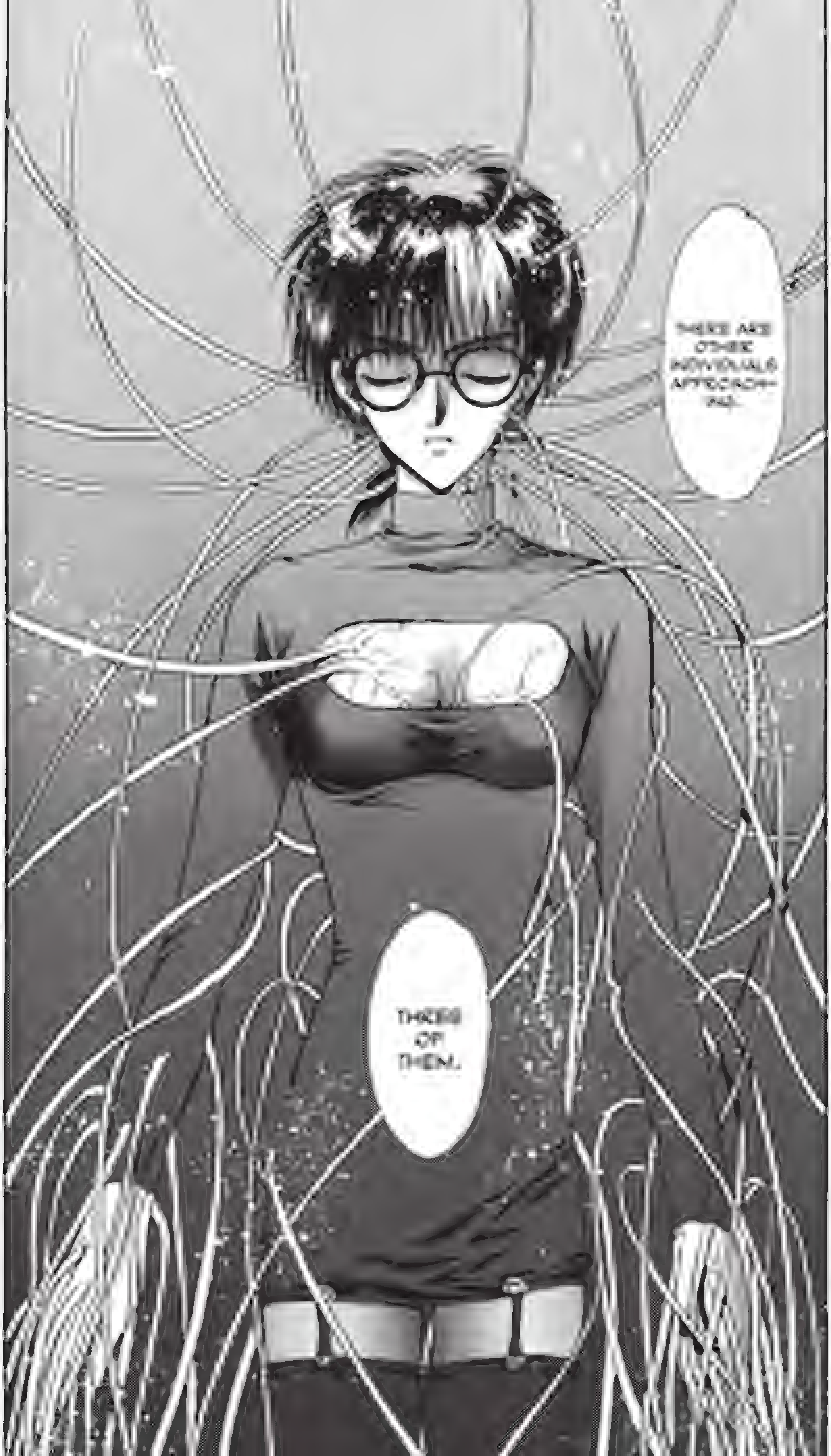

MISS KANOE!
BEAST TOLD SATSUKI THAT THE KAMUI—
YES. THE KAMUI HAS ARRIVED.
SWSH
YOU'RE THAT BOY ...

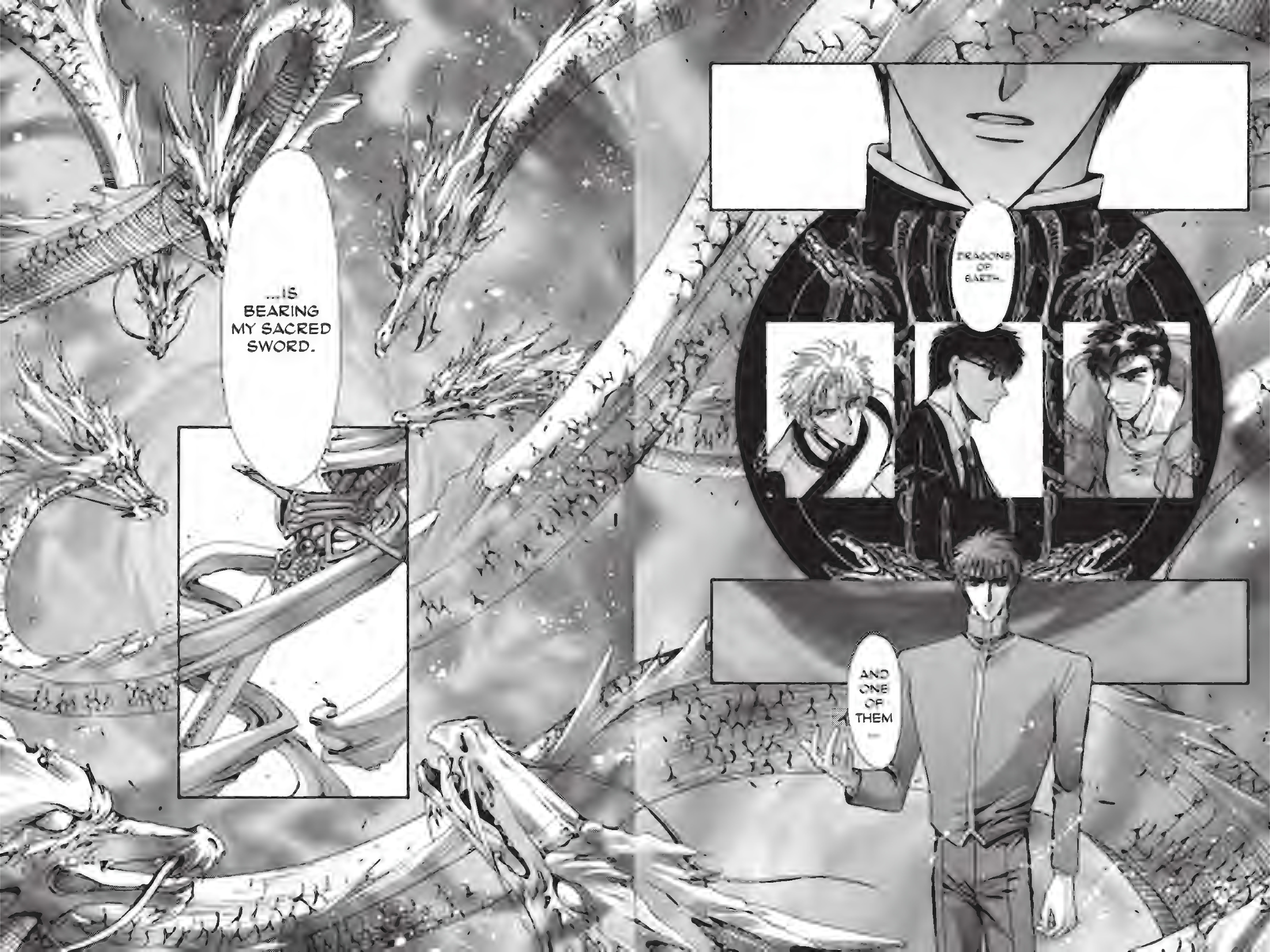

I'VE MET HIM BEFORE, BUT...
...HE WAS DIFFERENT THEN.
HE IS THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
YOU ALL MUST BE ABLE TO TELL, BEING DRAGONS OF EARTH YOURSELVES.

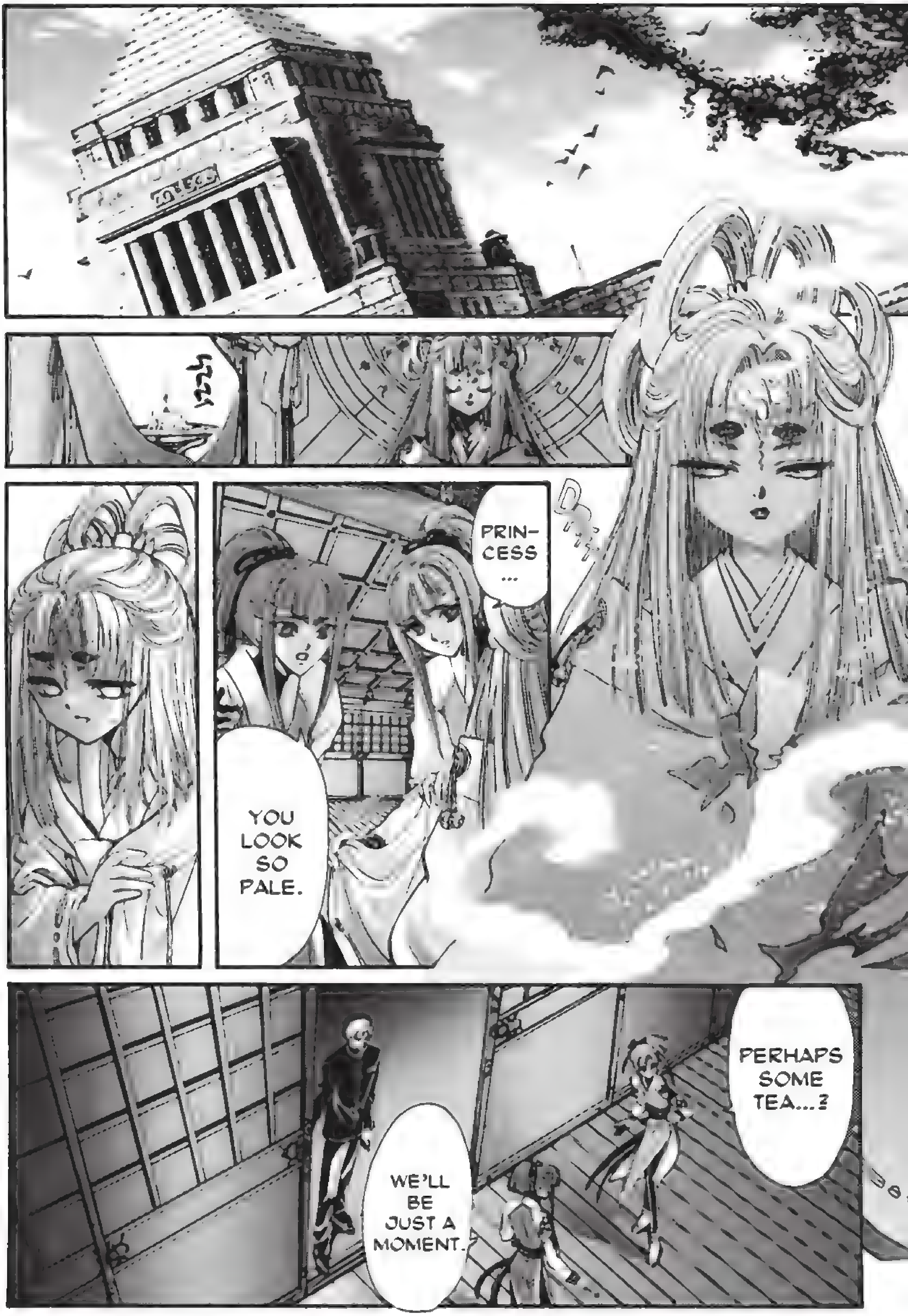

THE COMPUTER VERIFIED HIS IDENTITY. HE IS THE KAMUI.
AND YOU, YUTO?
WELL ...
I HAVE TO ADMIT THAT SOMETHING DEEP INSIDE OF ME RESPONDS TO HIM.

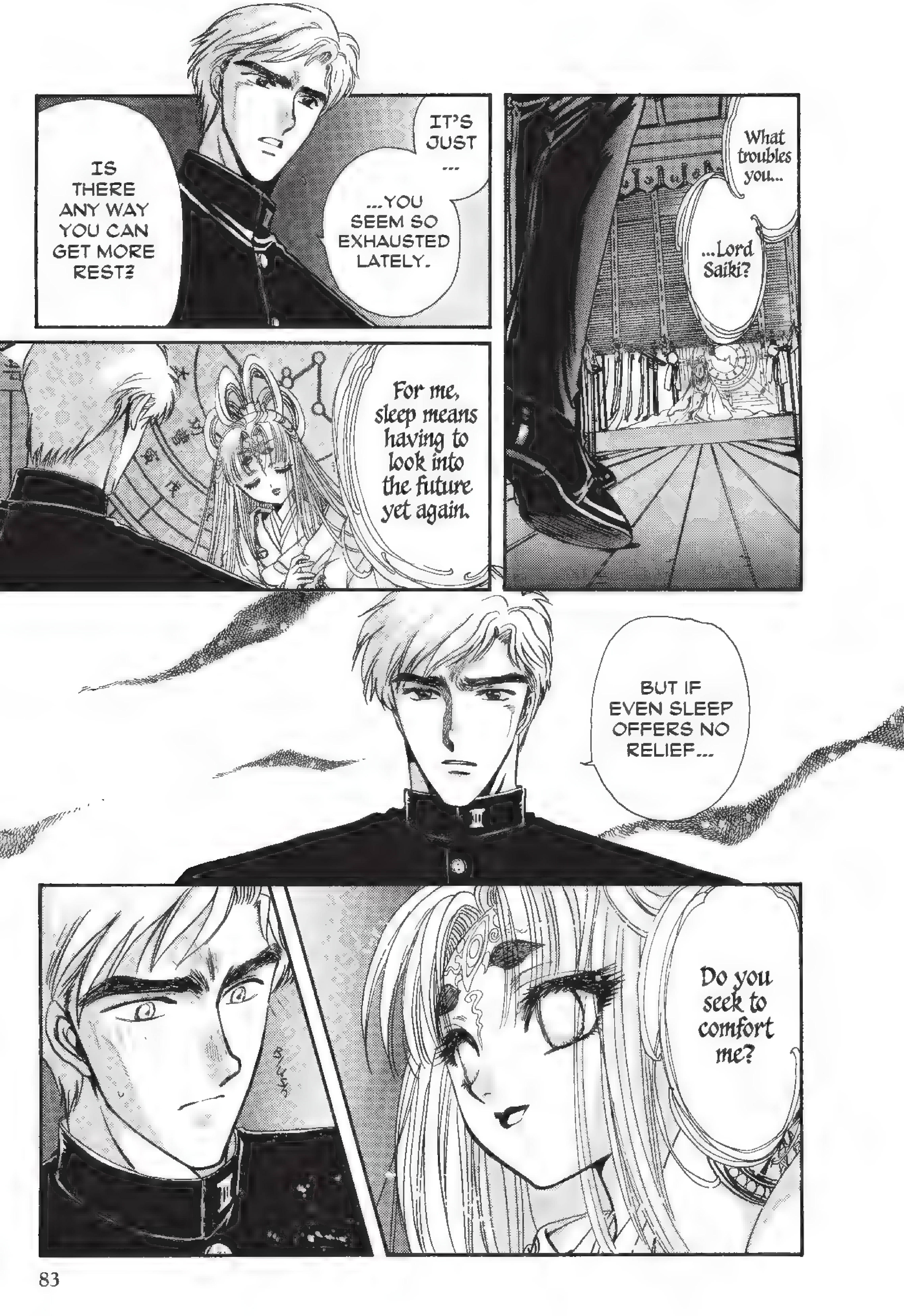

THMP
WHO IS THIS?
ANOTHER DRAGON OF EARTH.
AND A DREAMSEER.
A DREAM-SEER?!
THEN IT MUST HAVE BEEN HIM!
HE'S THE ONE WHO PASSED THROUGH MY SISTER'S DREAM!

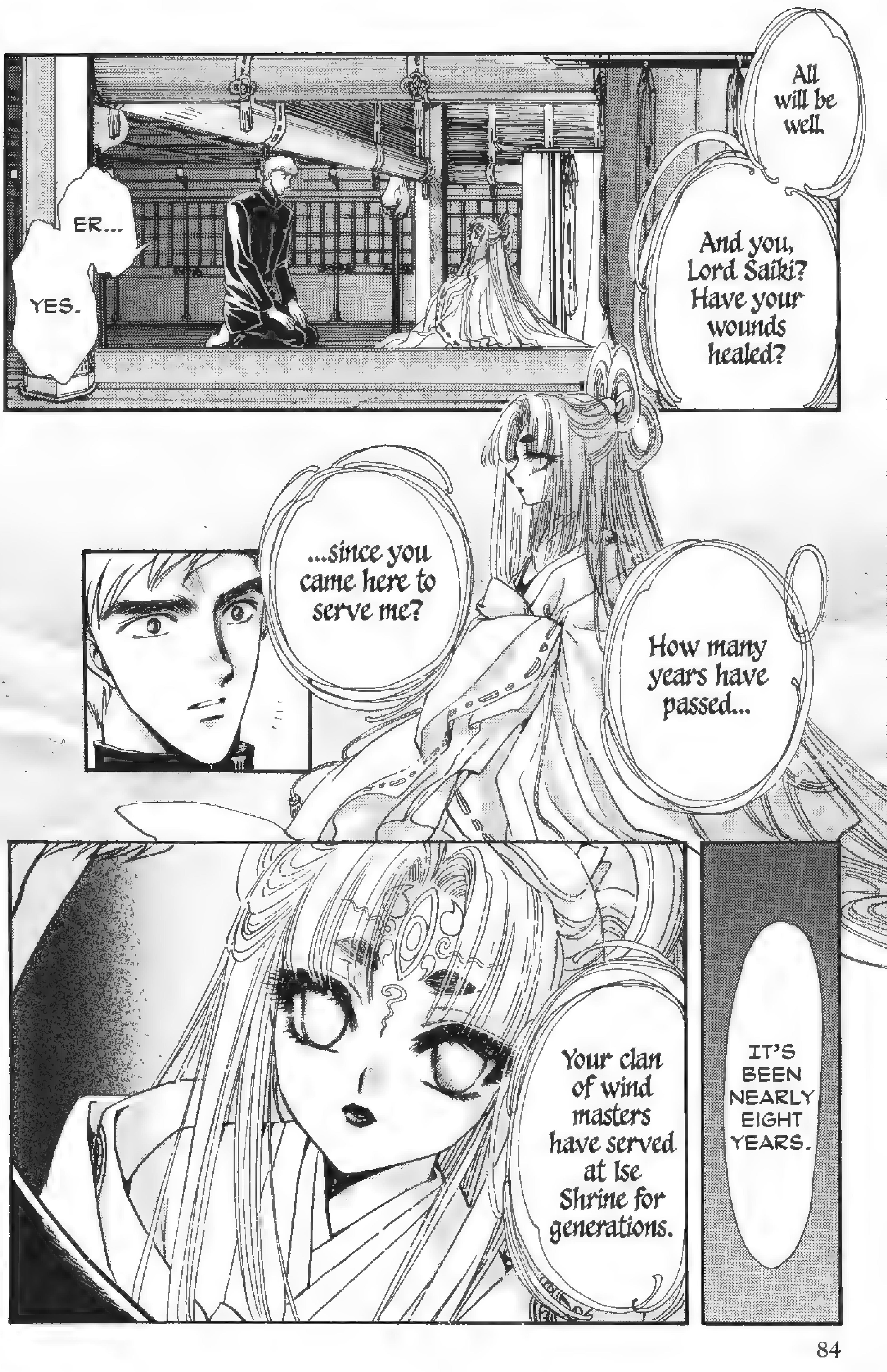

BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
VWRRL
ZWVVM
ZWP
ZWP
SHOK

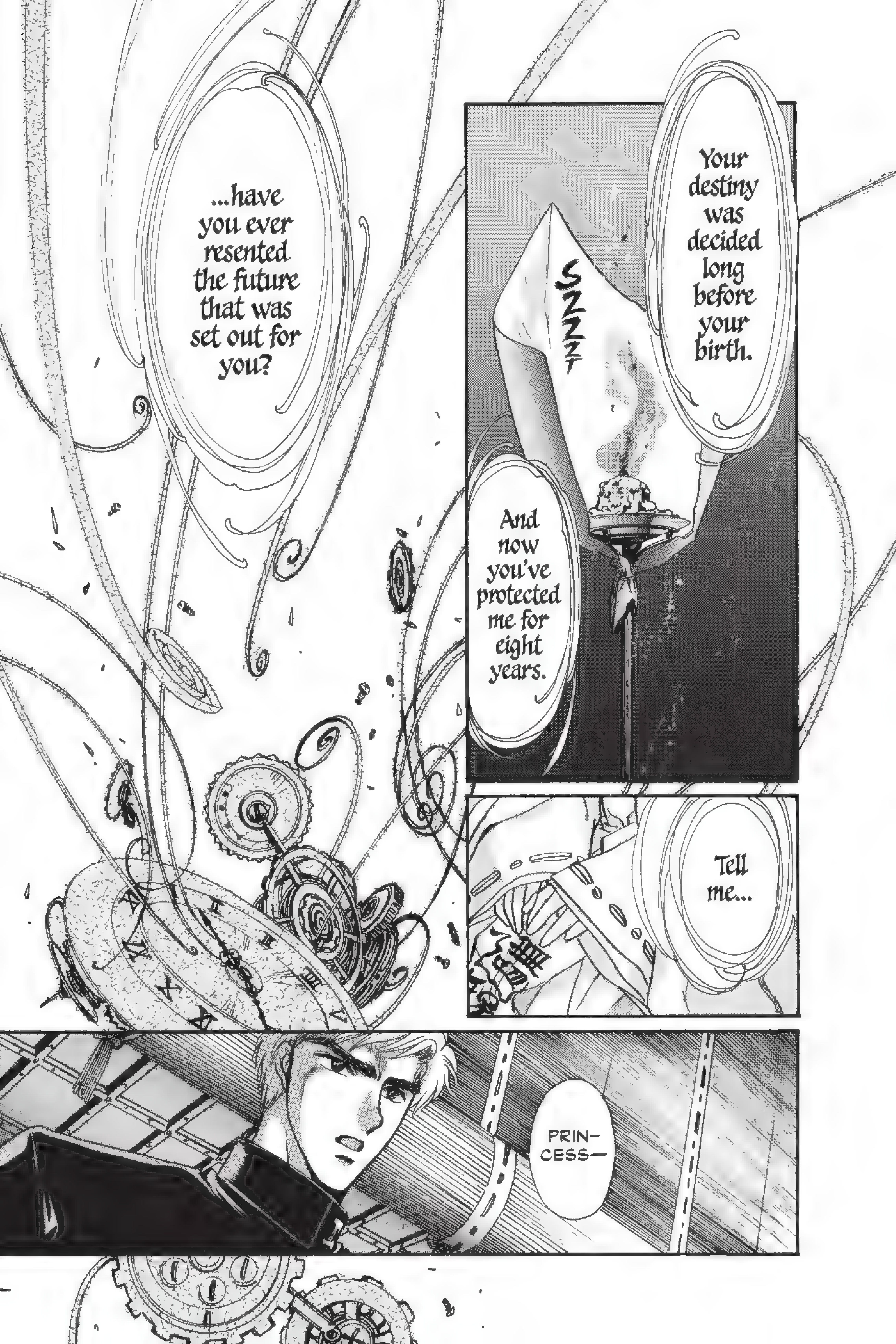

THERE ARE OTHER INDIVIDUALS APPROACHING.
THREE OF THEM.

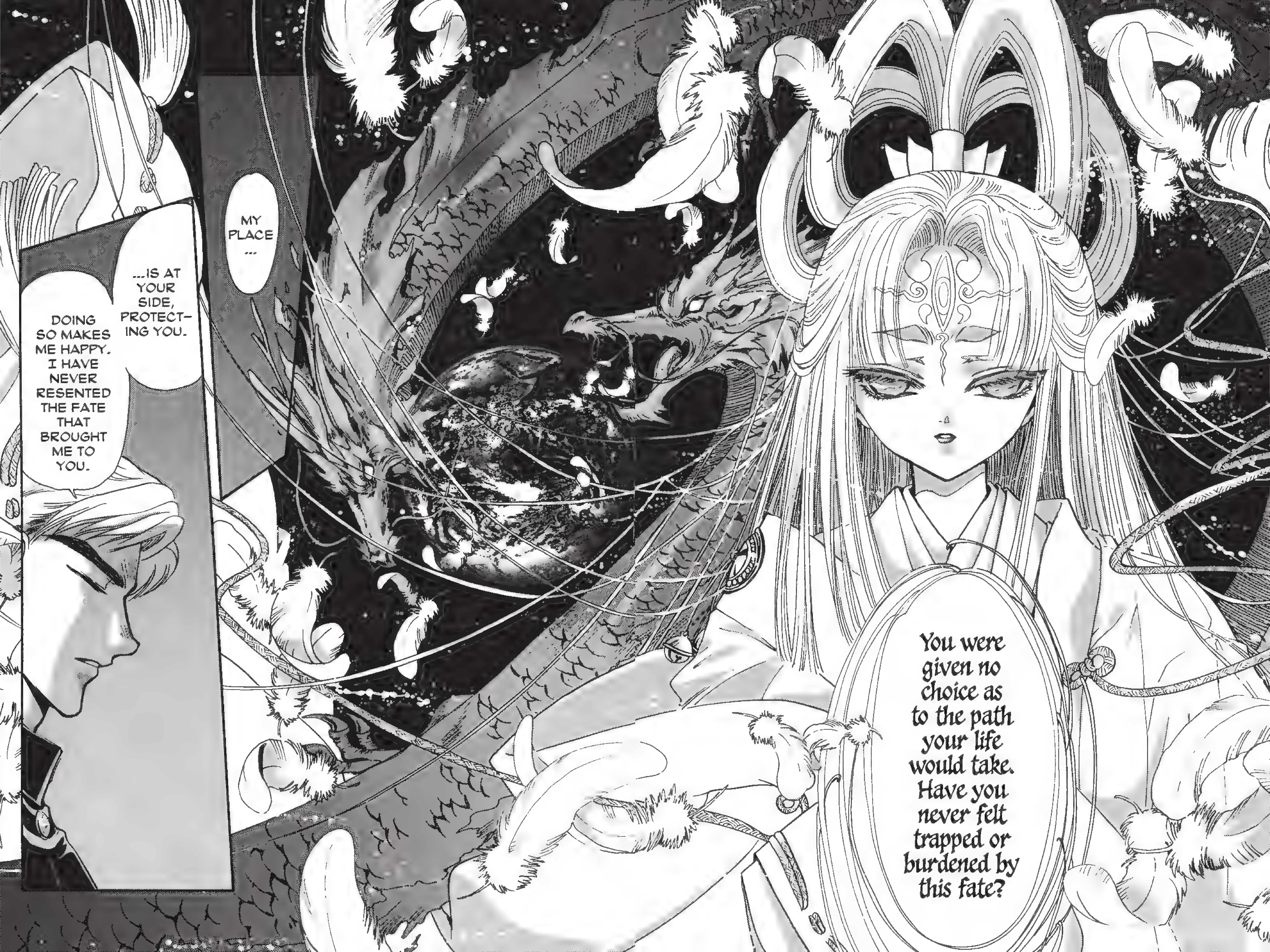

DRAGONS OF EARTH...
AND ONE OF THEM ...
...IS BEARING MY SACRED SWORD.

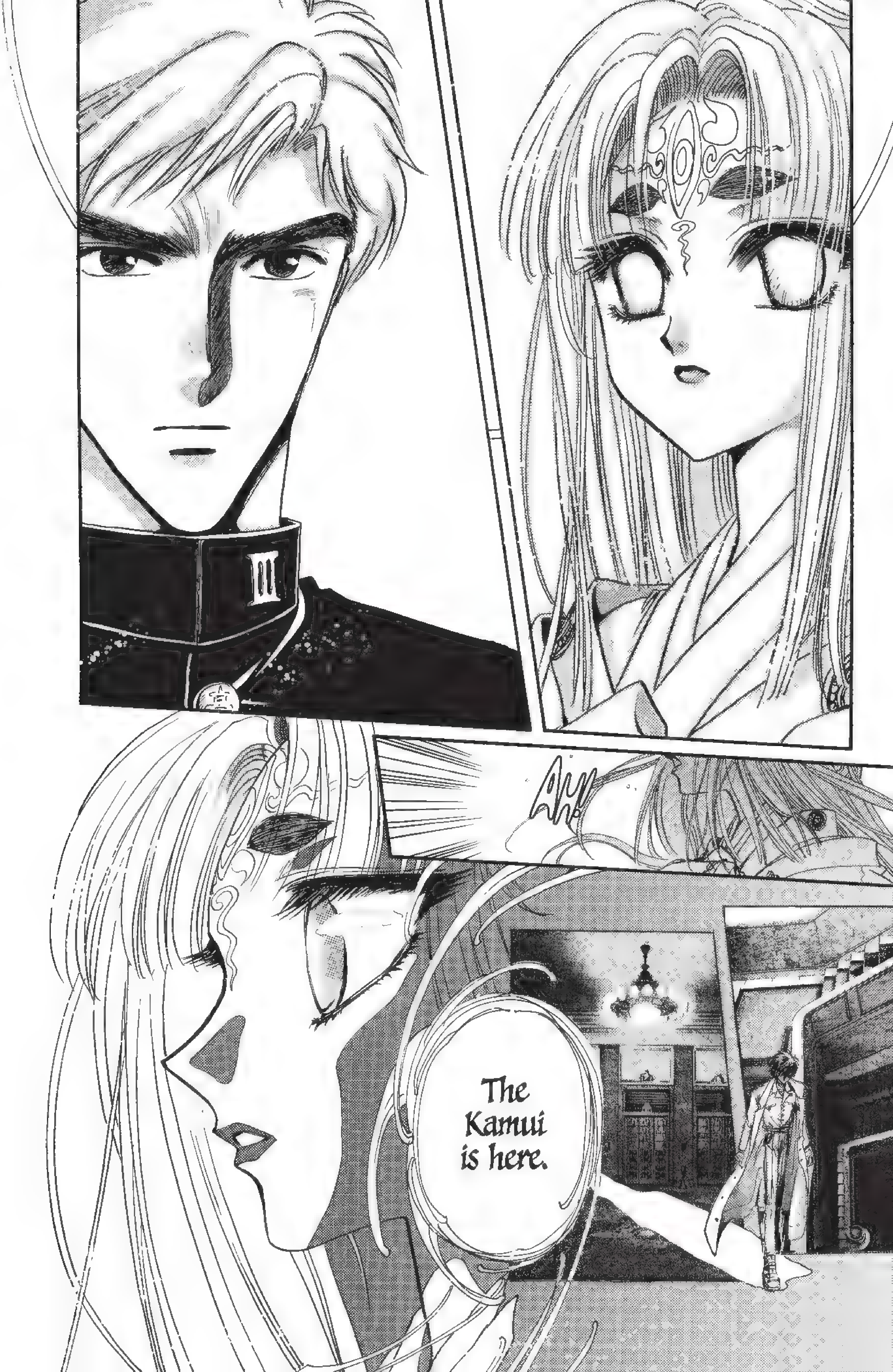

PRINCESS…
YOU LOOK SO PALE.
PERHAPS SOME TEA…?
WE'LL BE JUST A MOMENT.

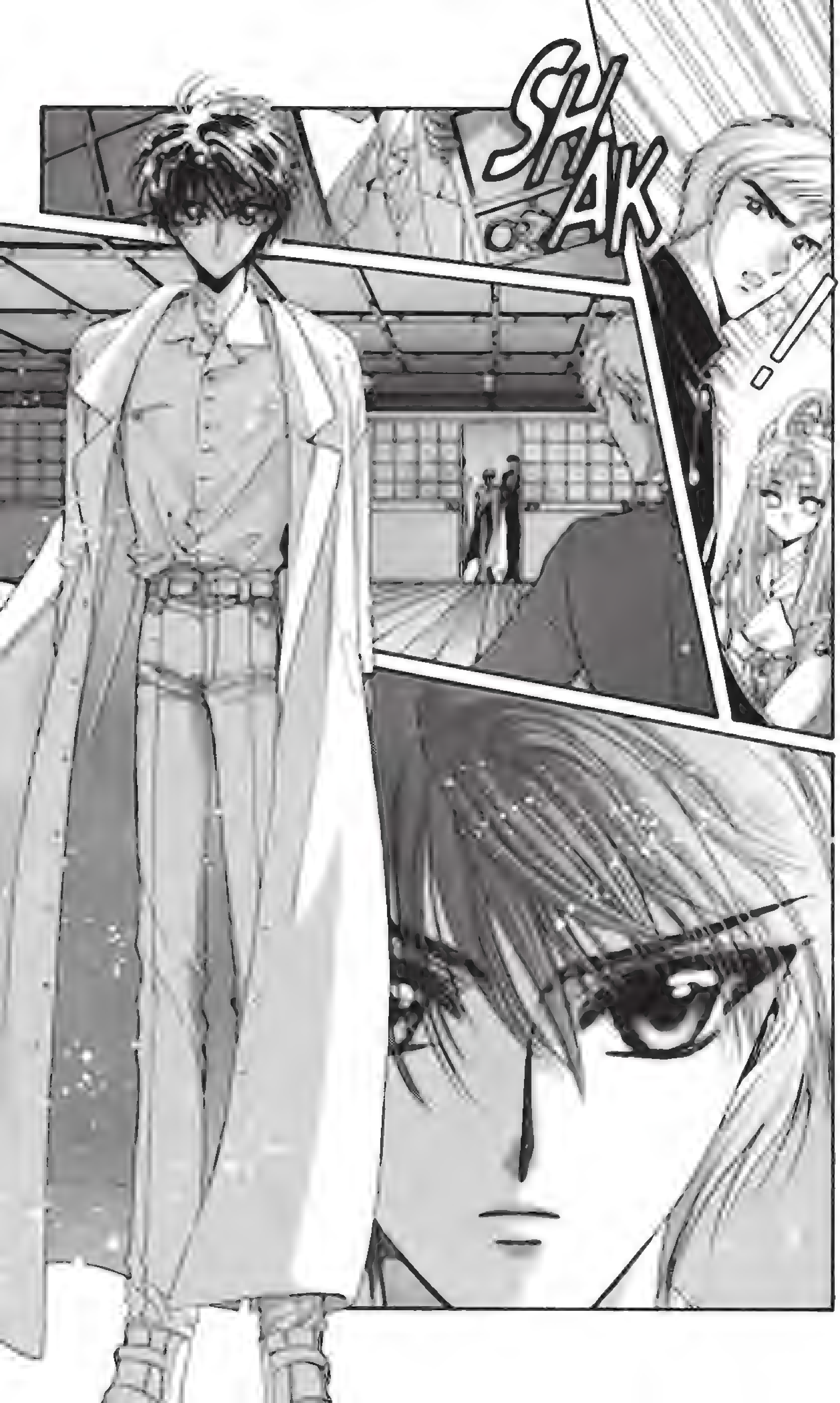

What troubles you...
...Lord Saiki?
IT'S JUST ...
...YOU SEEM SO EXHAUSTED LATELY.
IS THERE ANY WAY YOU CAN GET MORE REST?
For me, sleep means having to look into the future yet again.
BUT IF EVEN SLEEP OFFERS NO RELIEF...
Do you seek to comfort me?

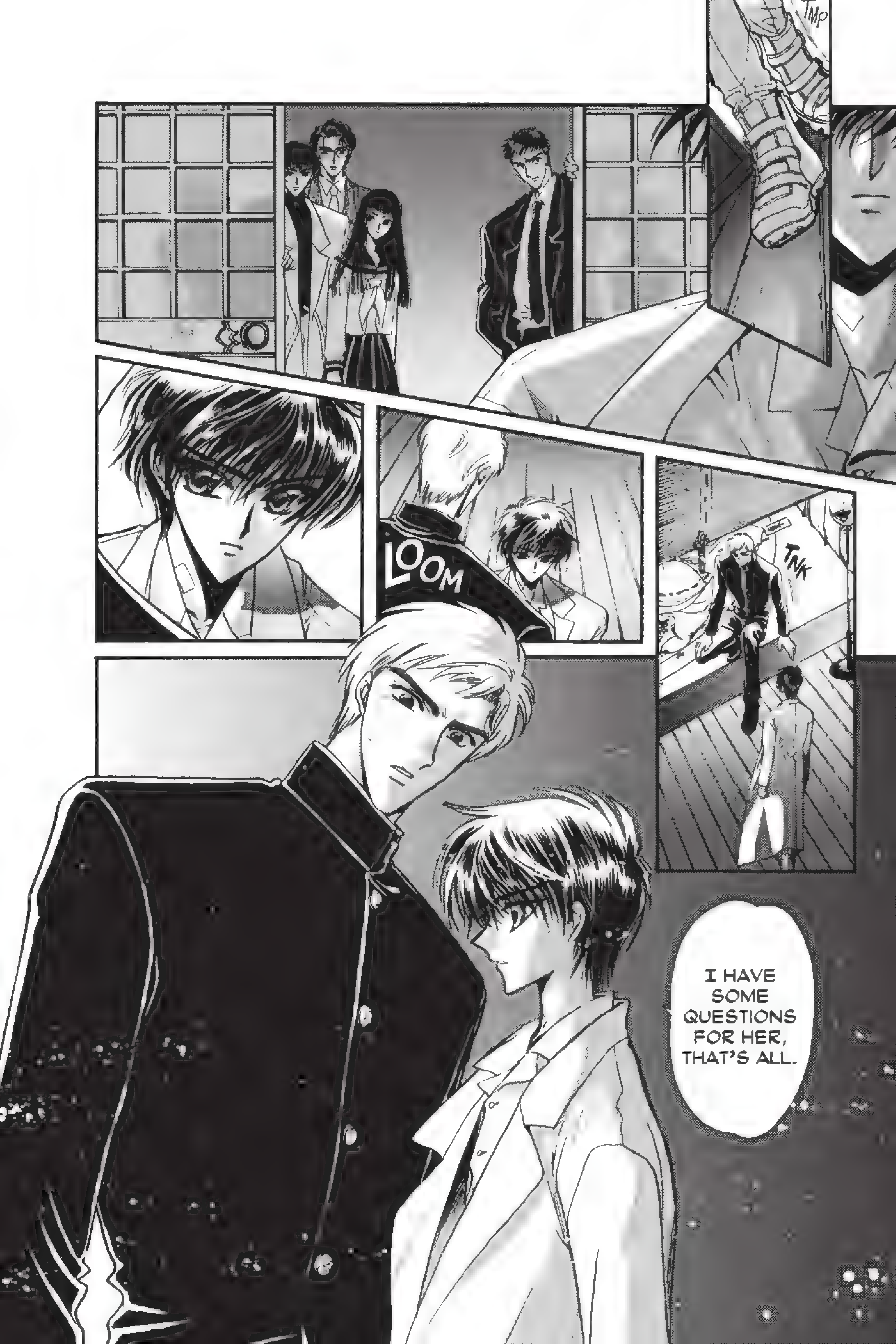

All will be well.
And you, Lord Saiki? Have your wounds healed?
ER... YES.
How many years have passed...
...since you came here to serve me?
IT'S BEEN NEARLY EIGHT YEARS.
Your clan of wind masters have served at Ise Shrine for generations.

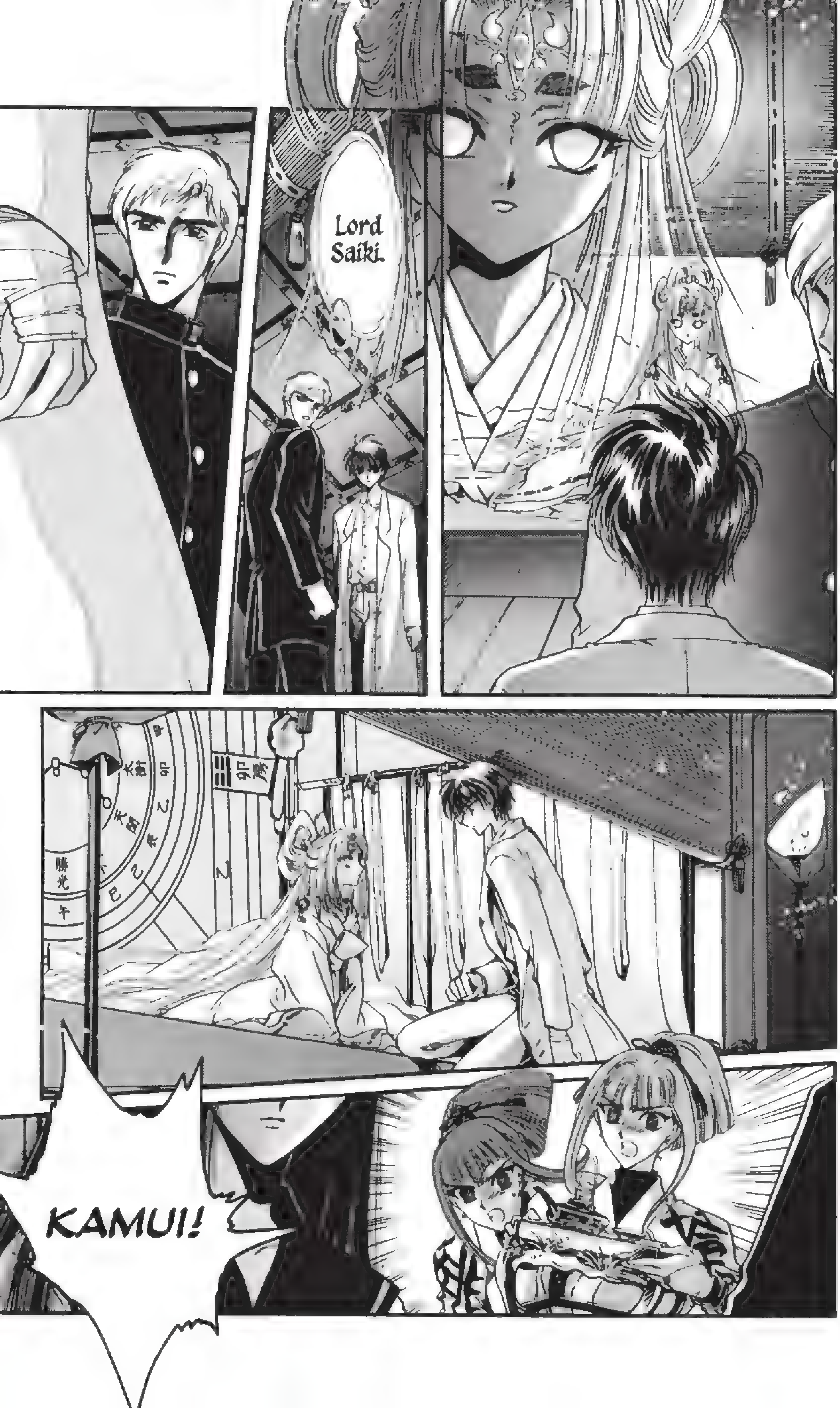

Your destiny was decided long before your birth.
SZZZT
And now you've protected me for eight years.
Tell me...
...have you ever resented the future that was set out for you?
PRINCESS—

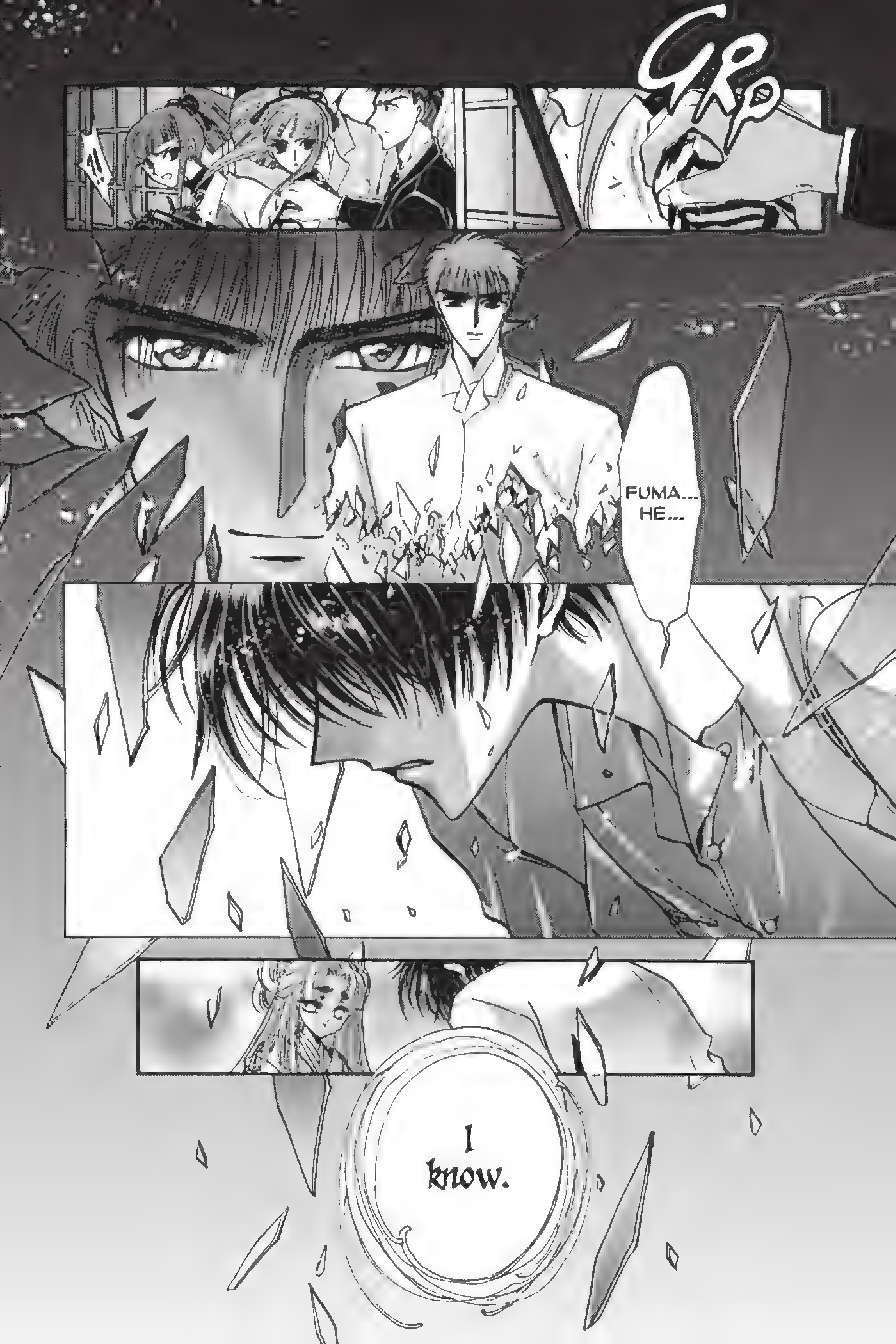

You were given no choice as to the path your life would take. Have you never felt trapped or burdened by this fate?
MY PLACE ...
...IS AT YOUR SIDE, PROTECTING YOU.
DOING SO MAKES ME HAPPY. I HAVE NEVER RESENTED THE FATE THAT BROUGHT ME TO YOU.

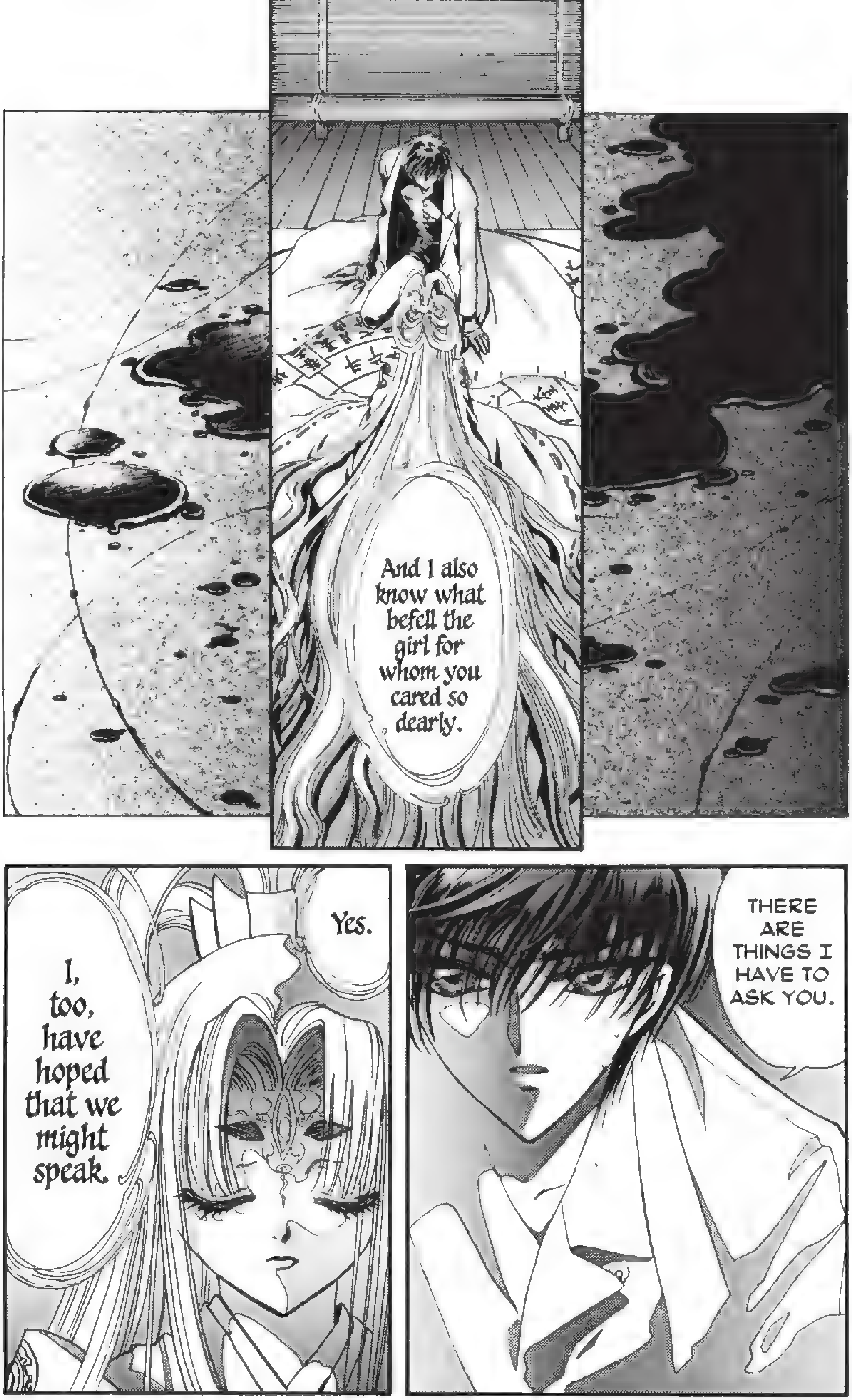

AH!
The Kamui is here.

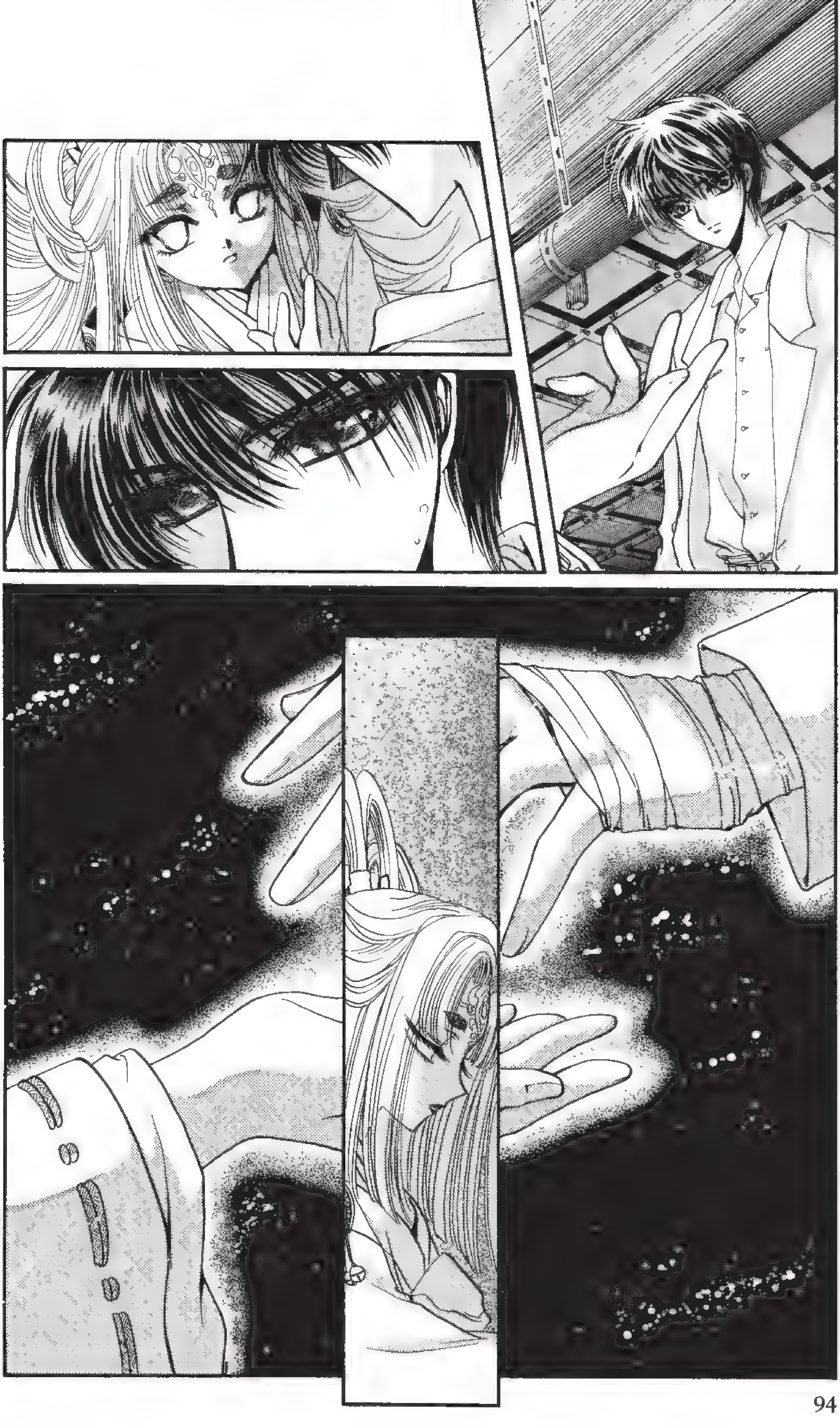

SHAK
!

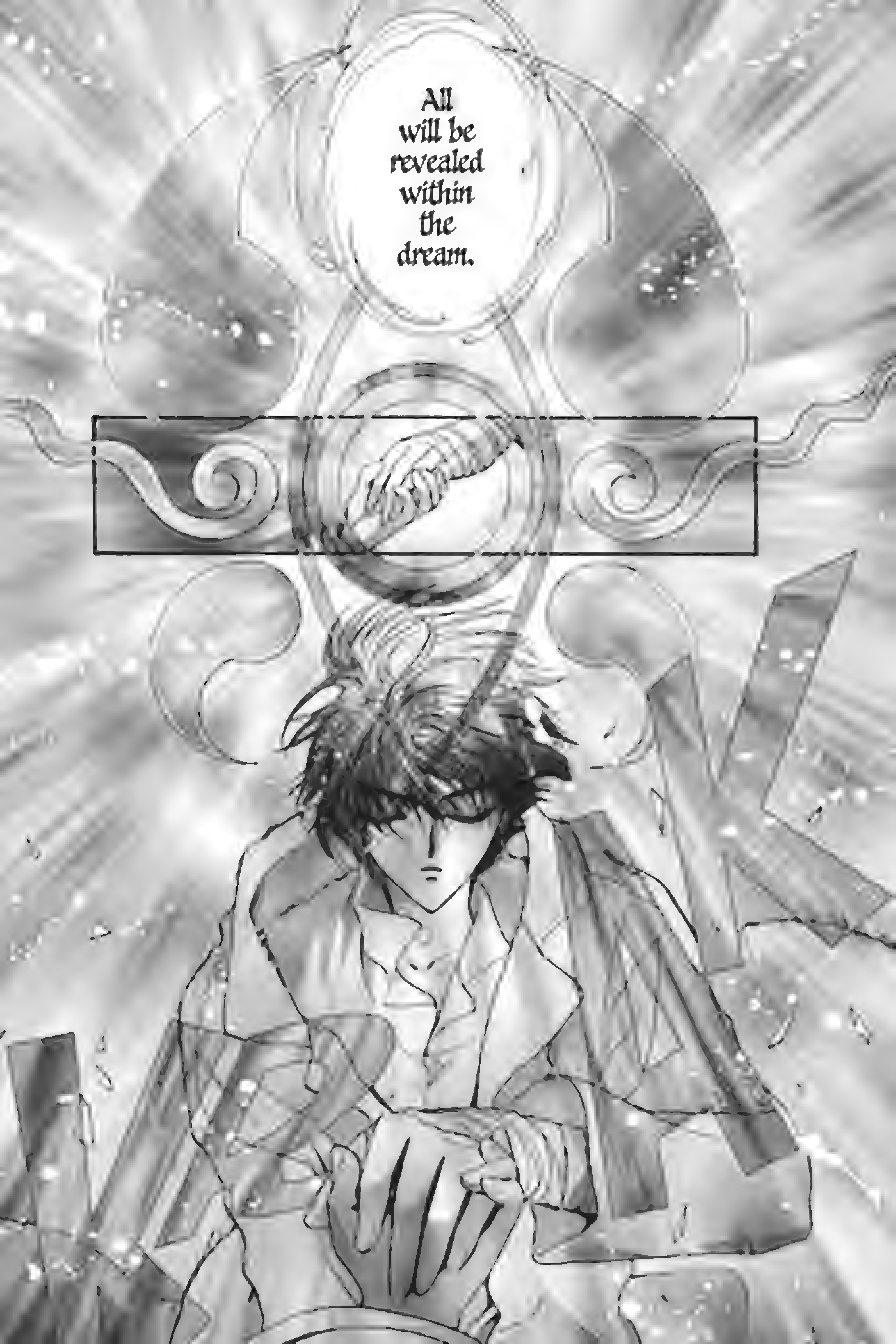

TMP
TNK
LOOM
I HAVE SOME QUESTIONS FOR HER, THAT'S ALL.

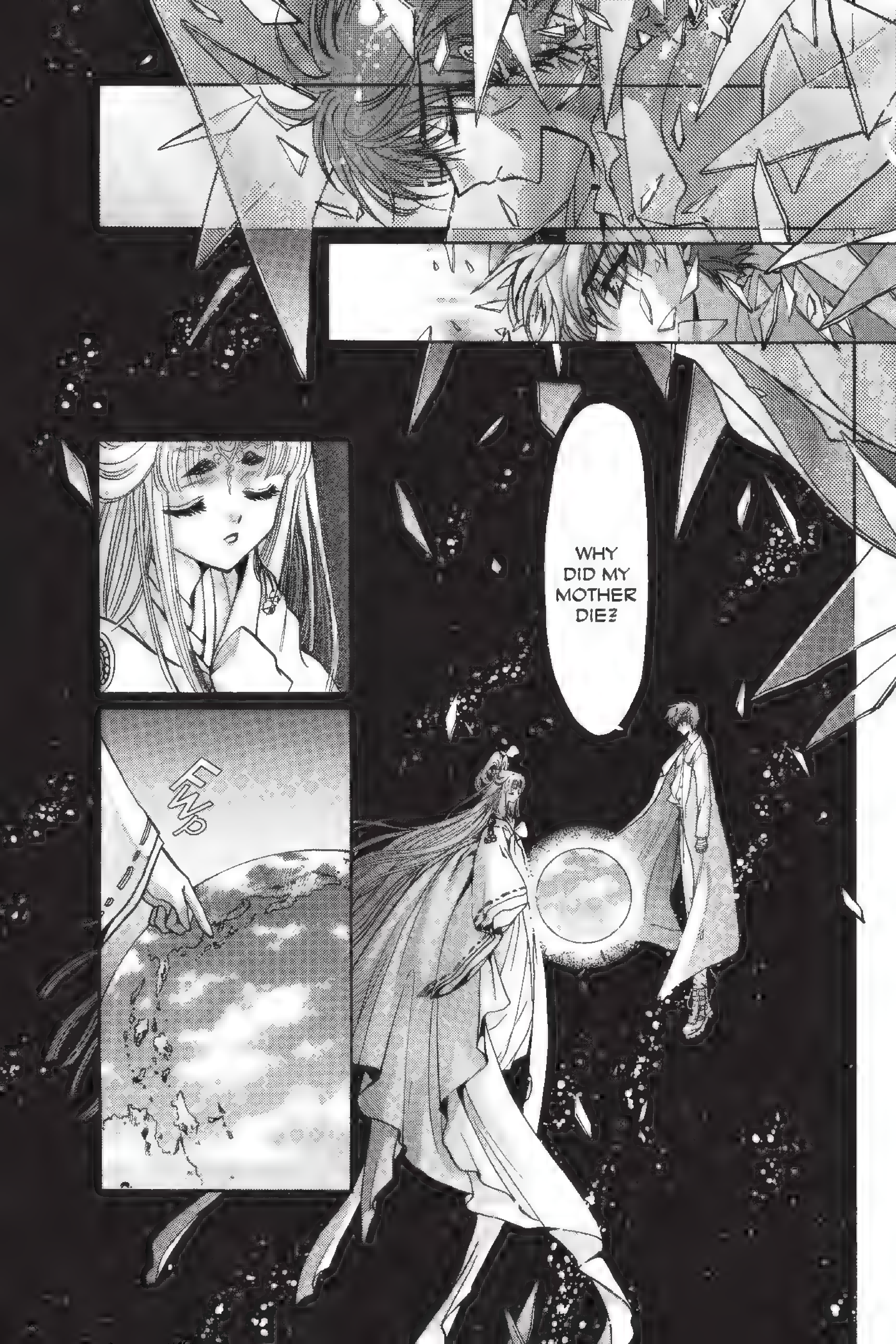

Lord Saiki.
KAMUI!

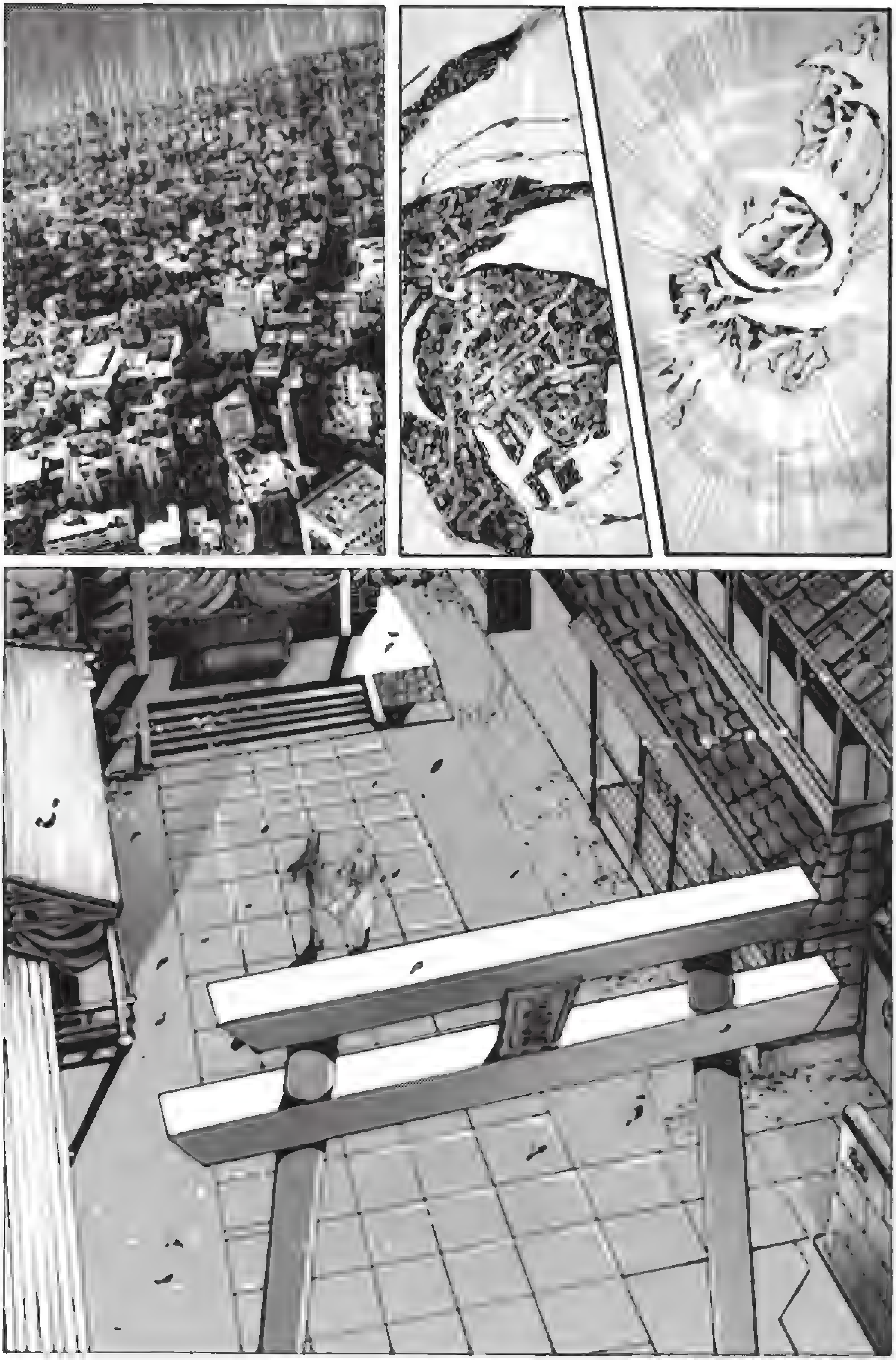

GRP
?!
FUMA... HE...
I know.


And I also know what befell the girl for whom you cared so dearly.
THERE ARE THINGS I HAVE TO ASK YOU.
Yes.
I, too, have hoped that we might speak.

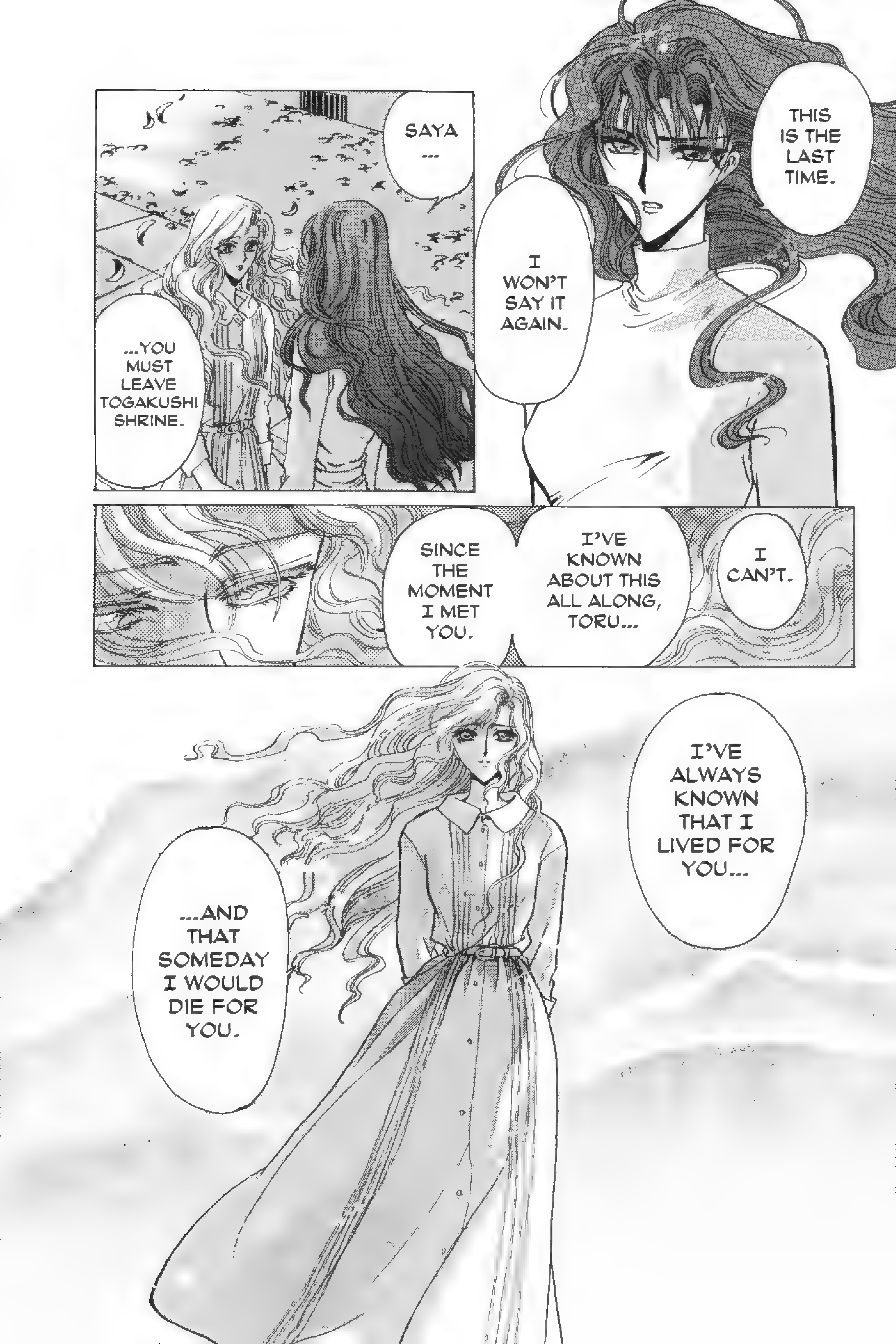


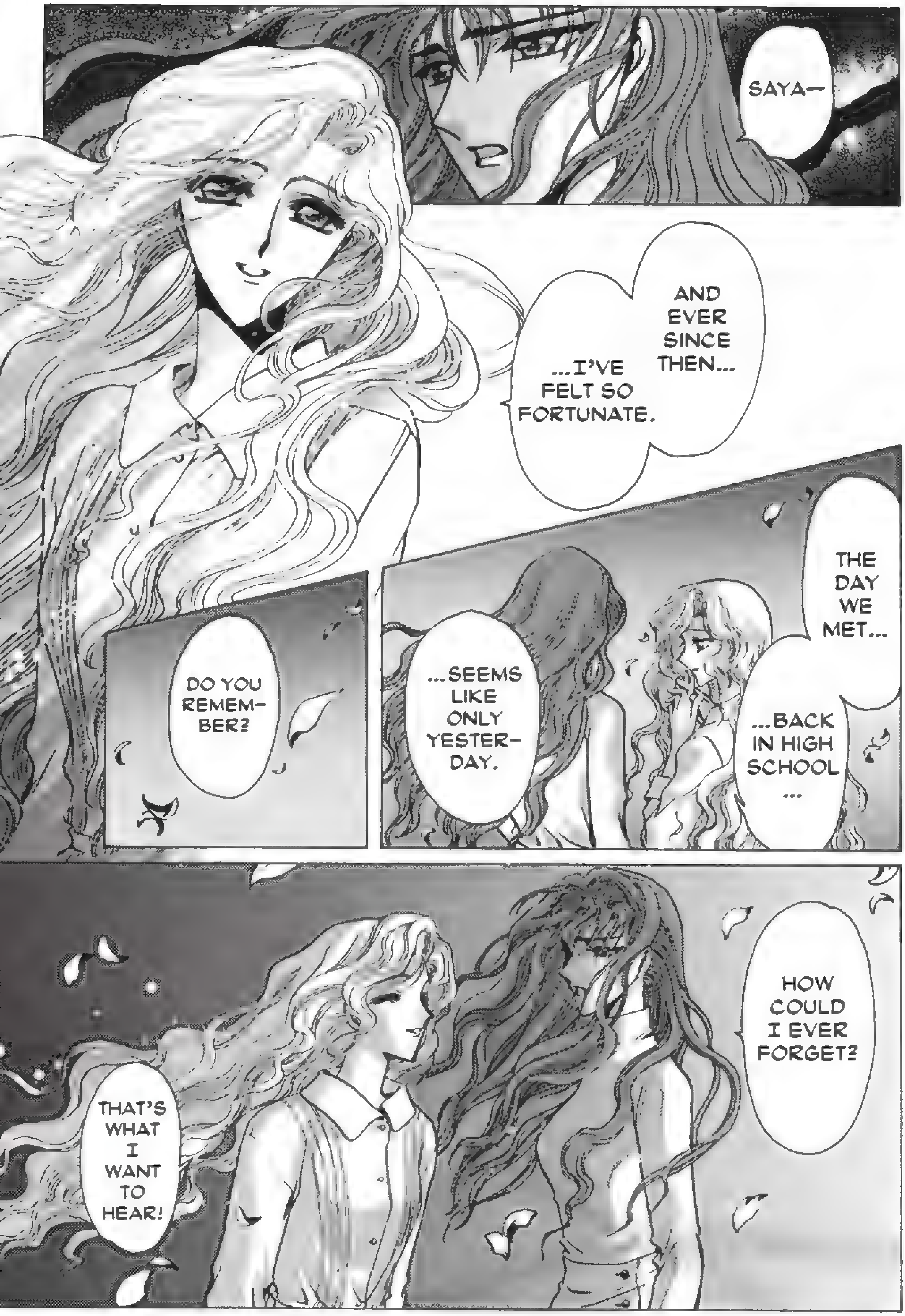

All will be revealed within the dream.

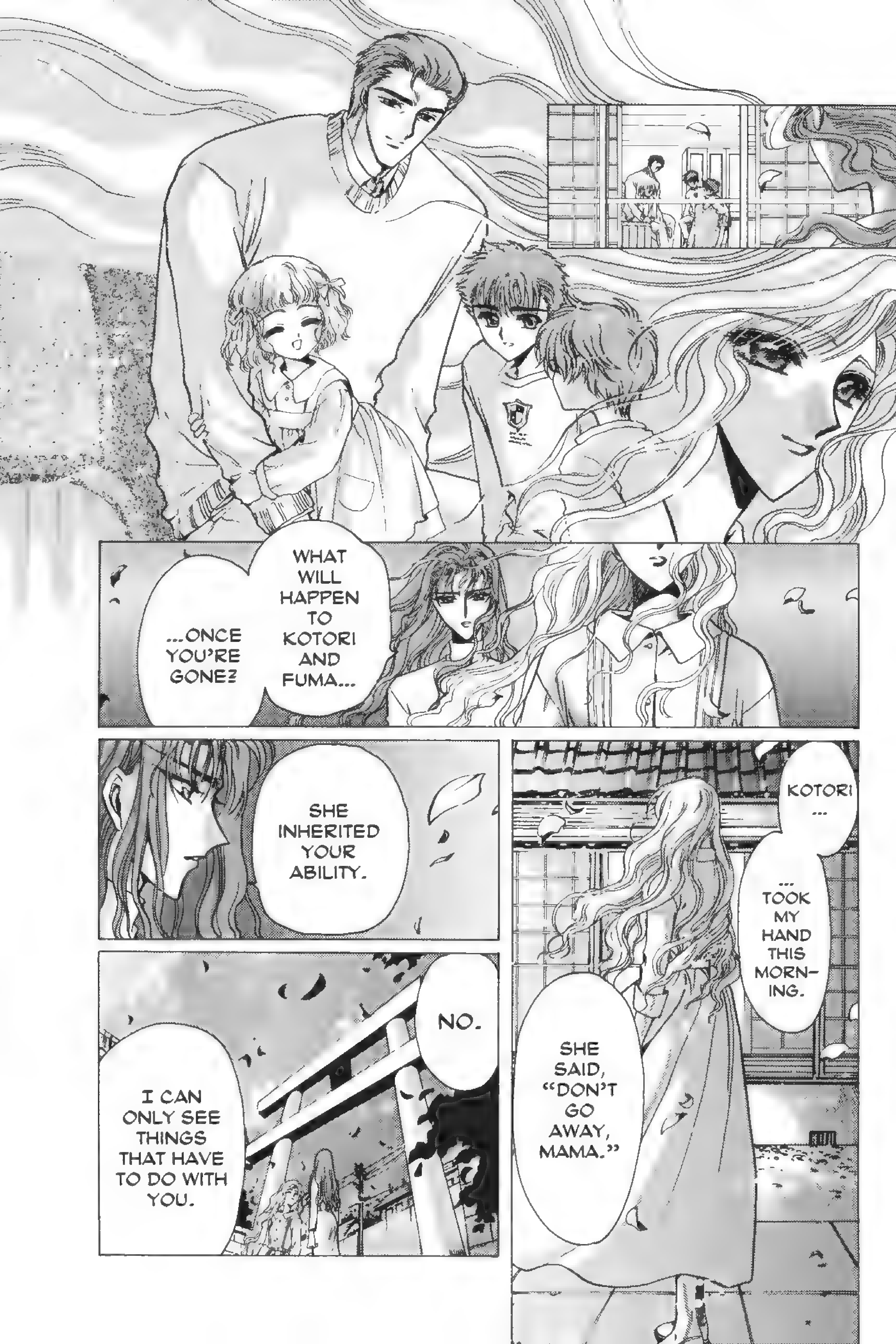

WHY DID MY MOTHER DIE?
Fwp

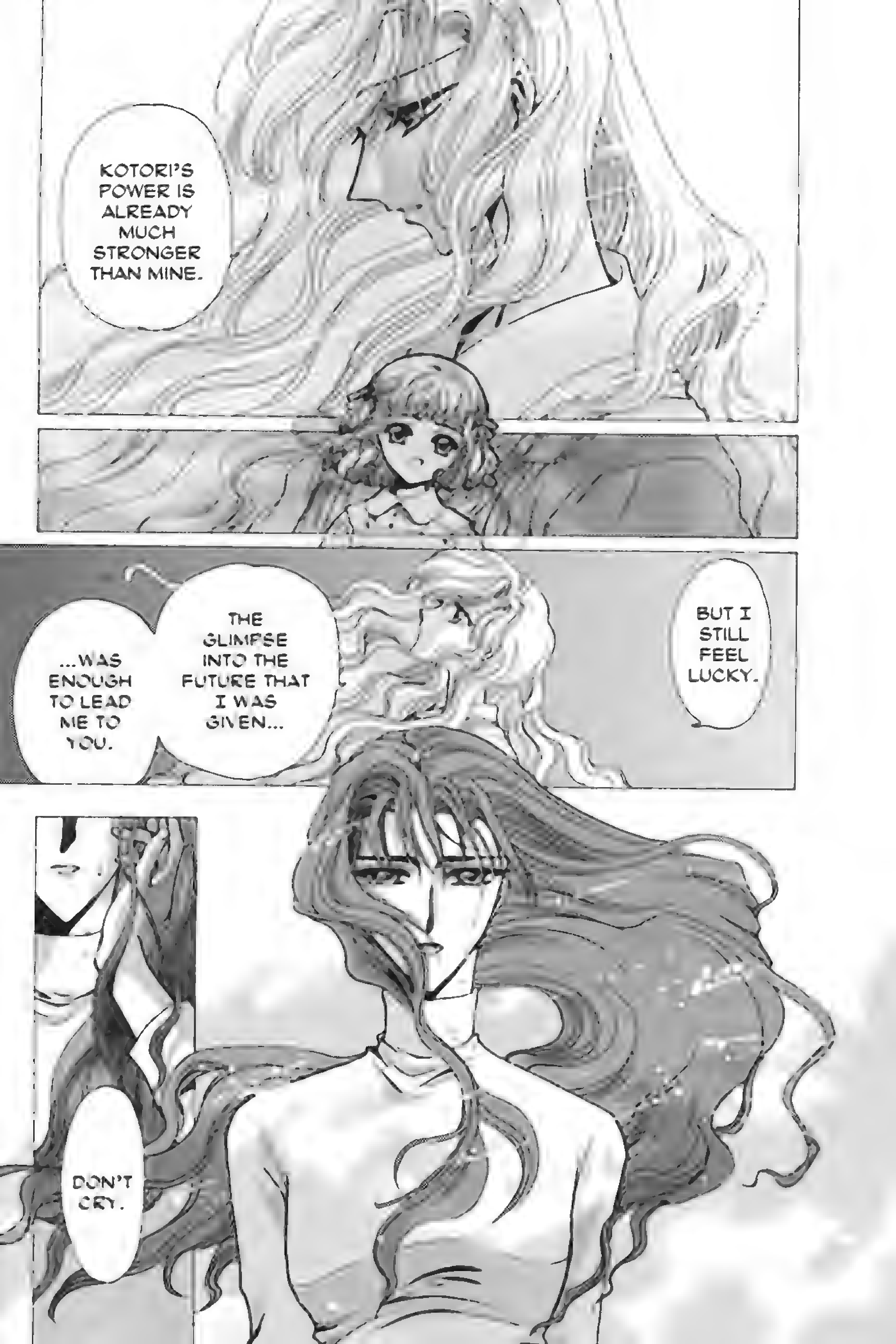


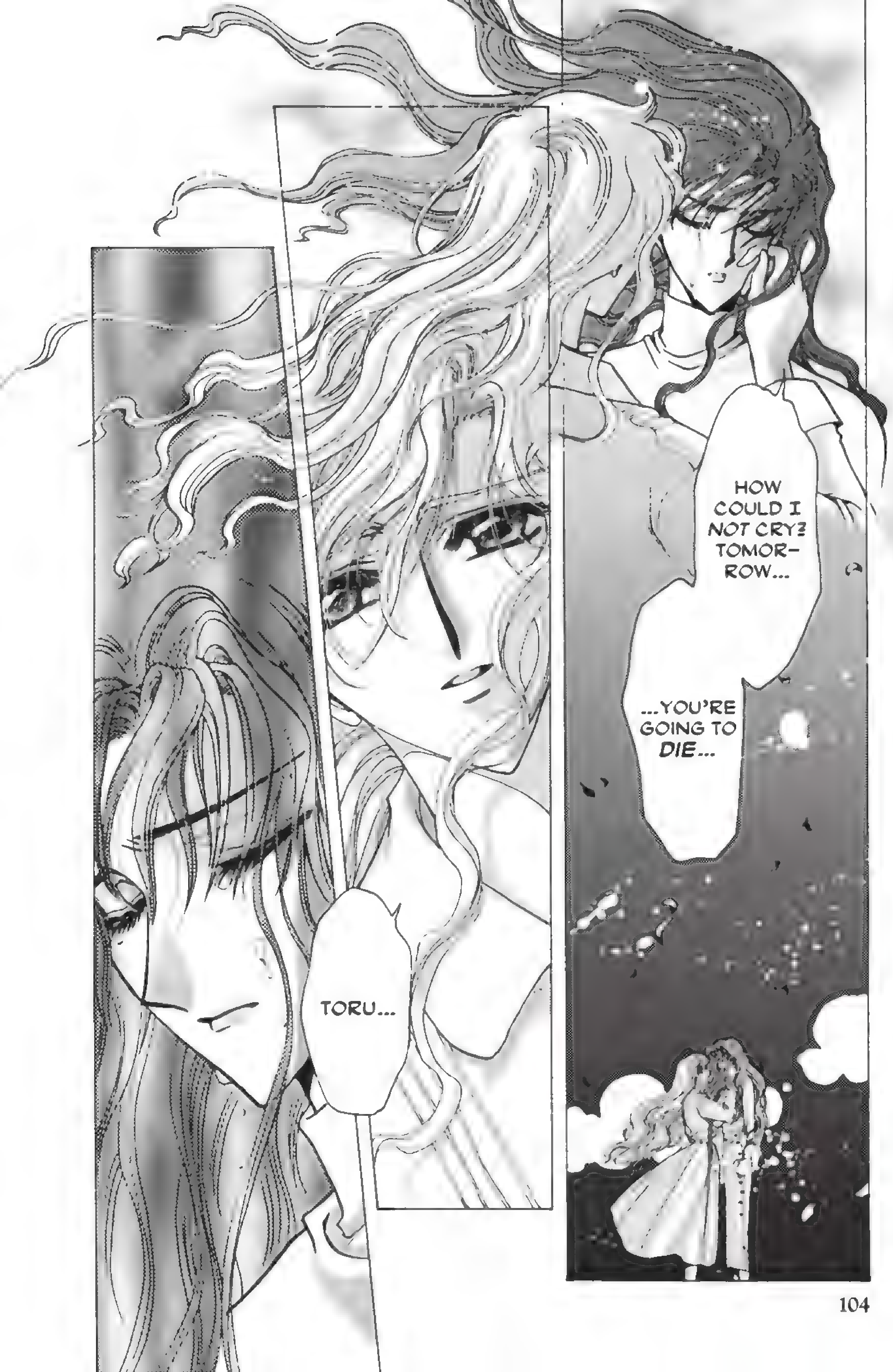
ON GATE, TOGAKUSHI SHRINE

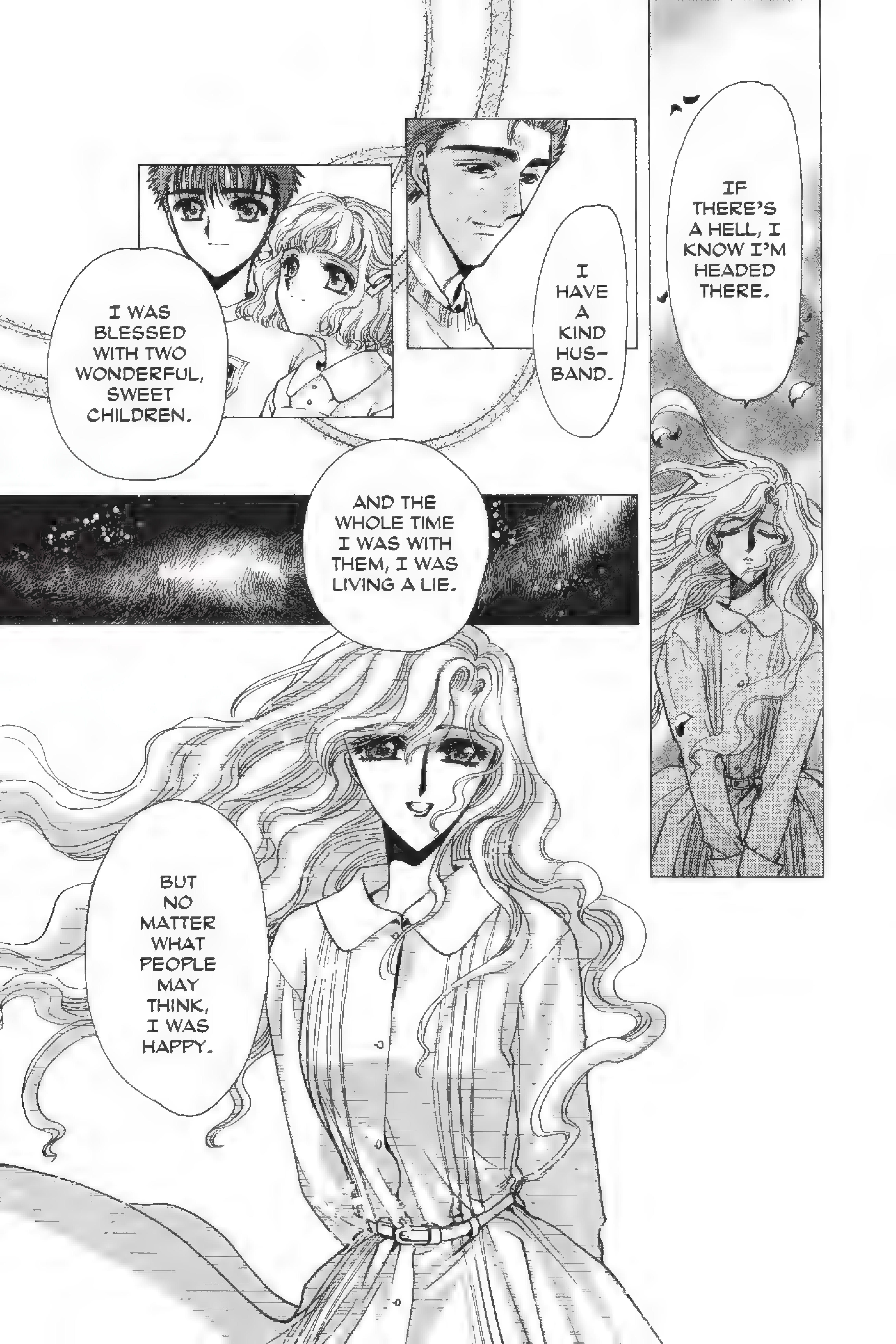

THIS IS THE LAST TIME.
I WON'T SAY IT AGAIN.
SAYA...
...YOU MUST LEAVE TOGAKUSHI SHRINE.
I CAN'T.
I'VE KNOWN ABOUT THIS ALL ALONG, TORU...
SINCE THE MOMENT I MET YOU.
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THAT I LIVED FOR YOU...
...AND THAT SOMEDAY I WOULD DIE FOR YOU.

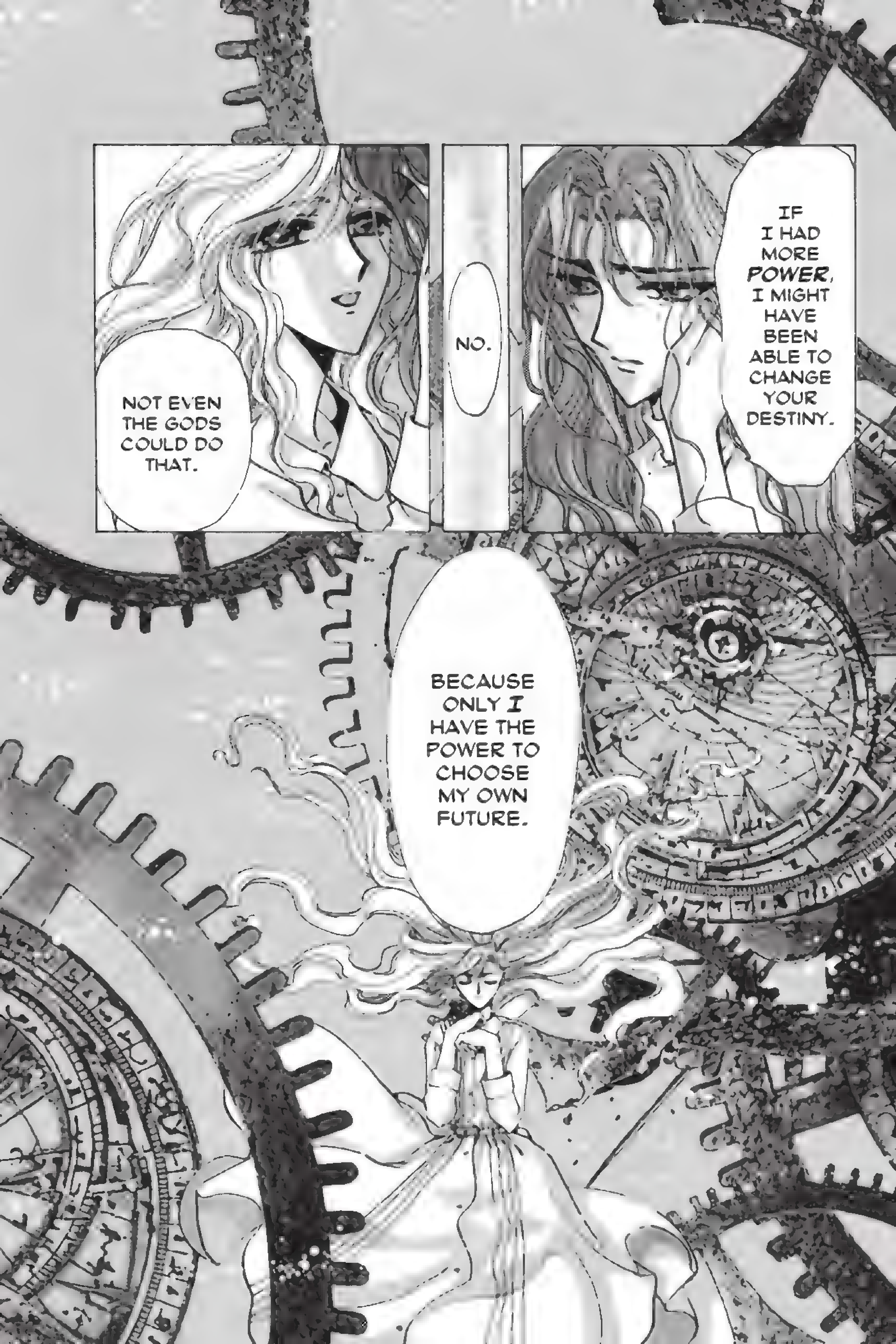

SAYA—
AND EVER SINCE THEN...
...I'VE FELT SO FORTUNATE.
THE DAY WE MET...
...BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL...
...SEEMS LIKE ONLY YESTERDAY.
DO YOU REMEMBER?
HOW COULD I EVER FORGET?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO HEAR!

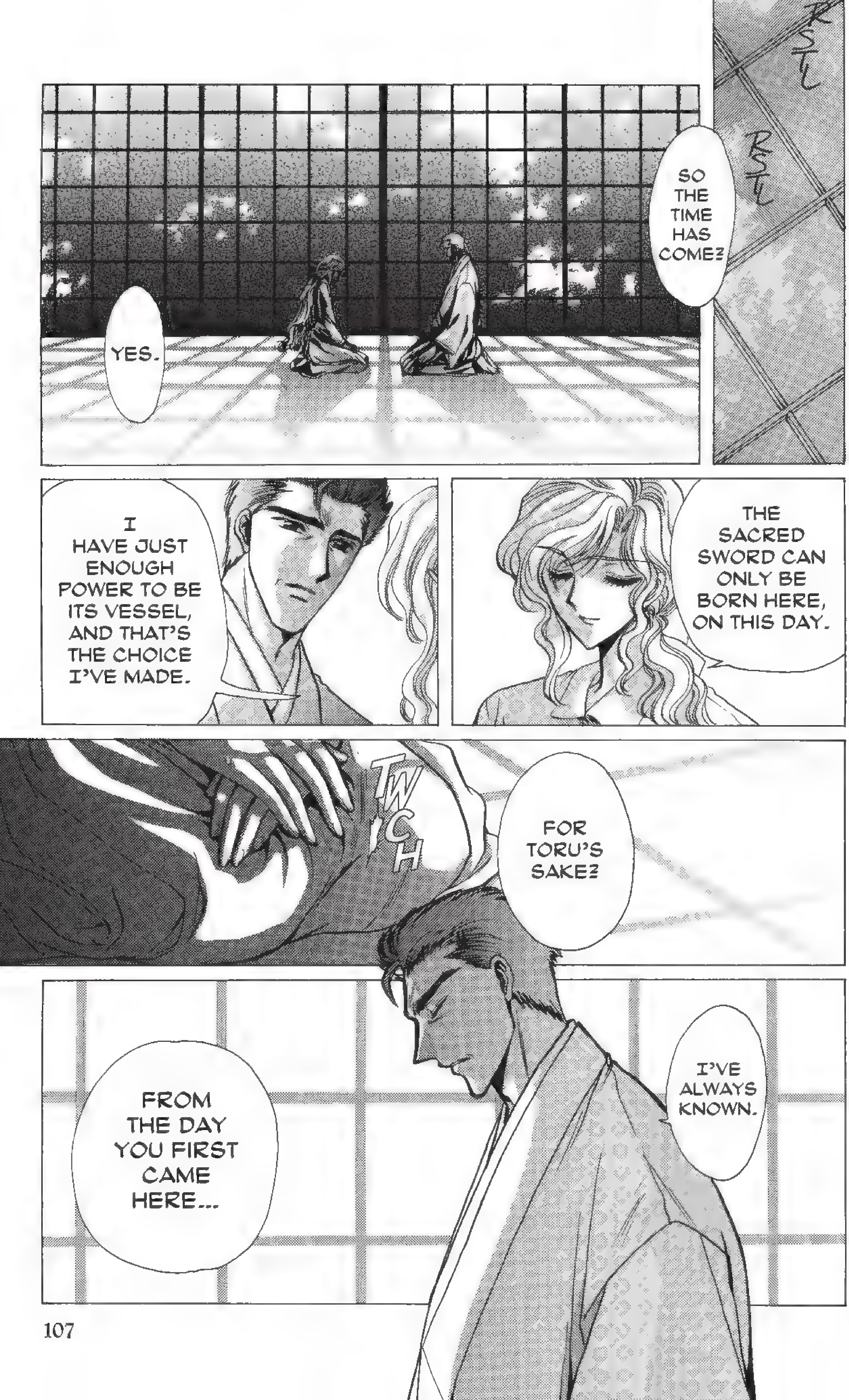

WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO KOTORI AND FUMA...
...ONCE YOU'RE GONE?
KOTORI ...
... TOOK MY HAND THIS MORNING.
SHE SAID, "DON'T GO AWAY, MAMA."
SHE INHERITED YOUR ABILITY.
NO.
I CAN ONLY SEE THINGS THAT HAVE TO DO WITH YOU.

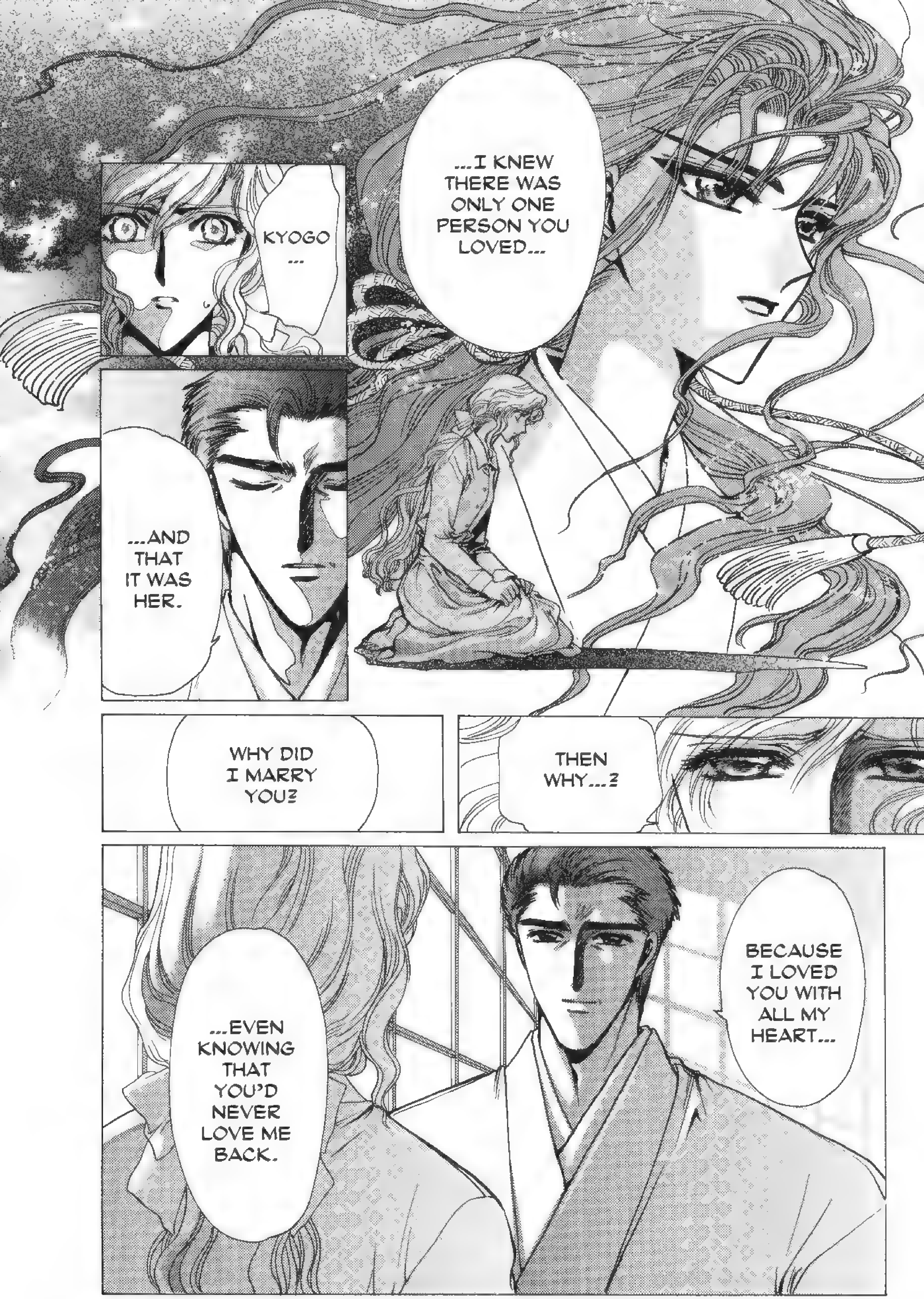

KOTORI'S POWER IS ALREADY MUCH STRONGER THAN MINE.
BUT I STILL FEEL LUCKY.
THE GLIMPSE INTO THE FUTURE THAT I WAS GIVEN...
...WAS ENOUGH TO LEAD ME TO YOU.
DON'T CRY.

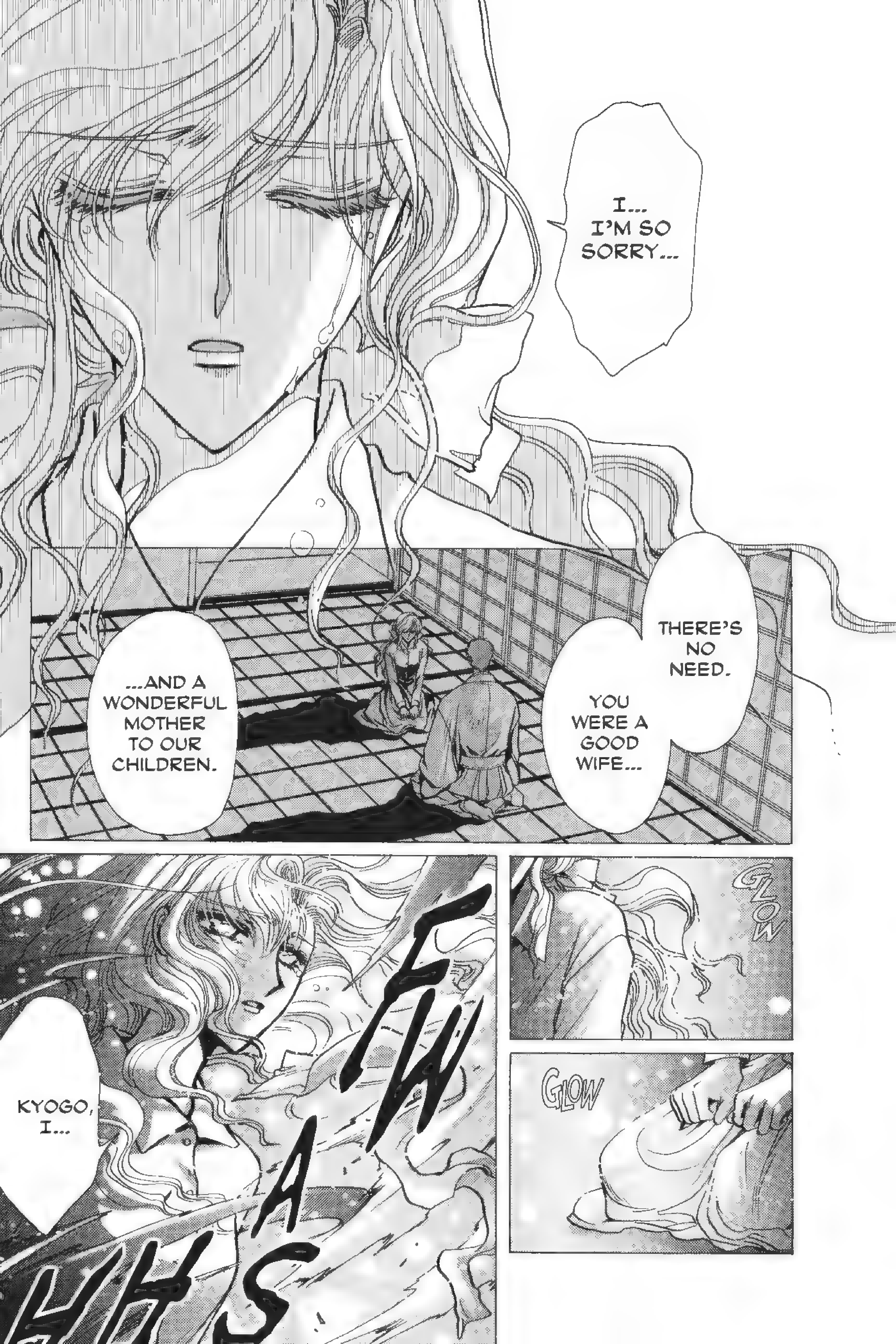

HOW COULD I NOT CRY? TOMORROW...
...YOU'RE GOING TO *DIE*...
TORU...

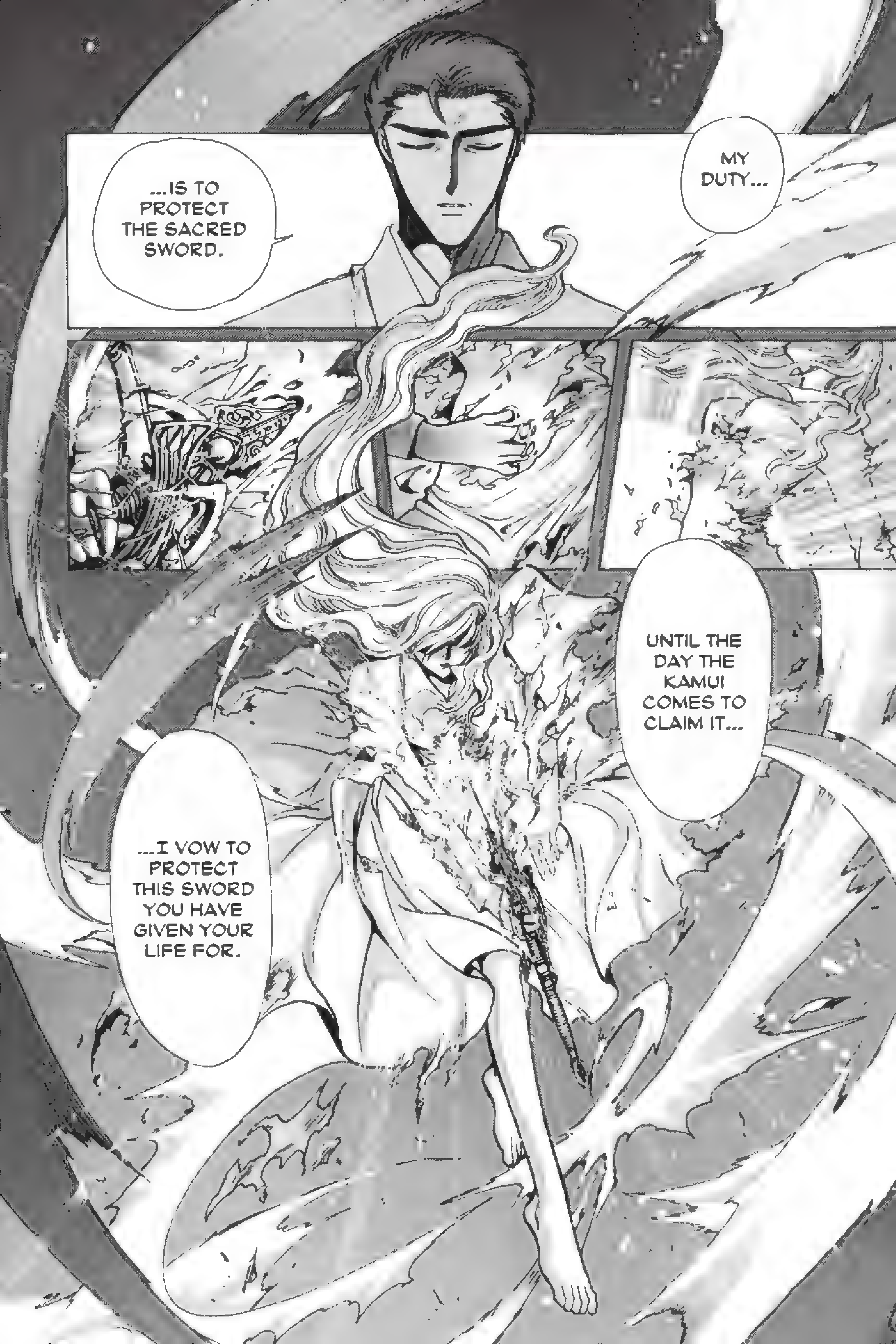

IF THERE'S A HELL, I KNOW I'M HEADED THERE.
I HAVE A KIND HUSBAND.
I WAS BLESSED WITH TWO WONDERFUL, SWEET CHILDREN.
AND THE WHOLE TIME I WAS WITH THEM, I WAS LIVING A LIE.
BUT NO MATTER WHAT PEOPLE MAY THINK, I WAS HAPPY.

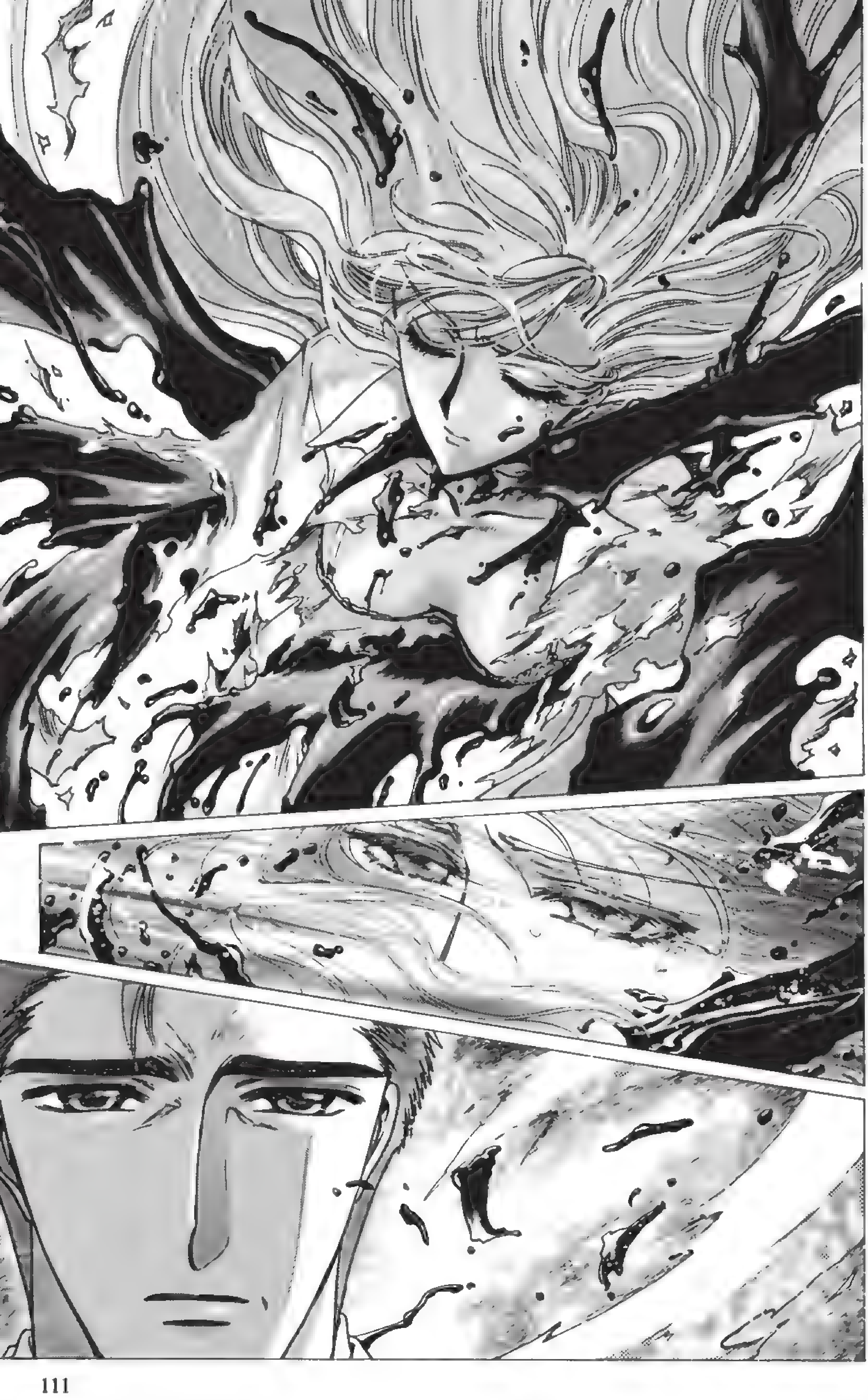

IF I HAD MORE *POWER*, I MIGHT HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CHANGE YOUR DESTINY.
NO.
NOT EVEN THE GODS COULD DO THAT.
BECAUSE ONLY *I* HAVE THE POWER TO CHOOSE MY OWN FUTURE.

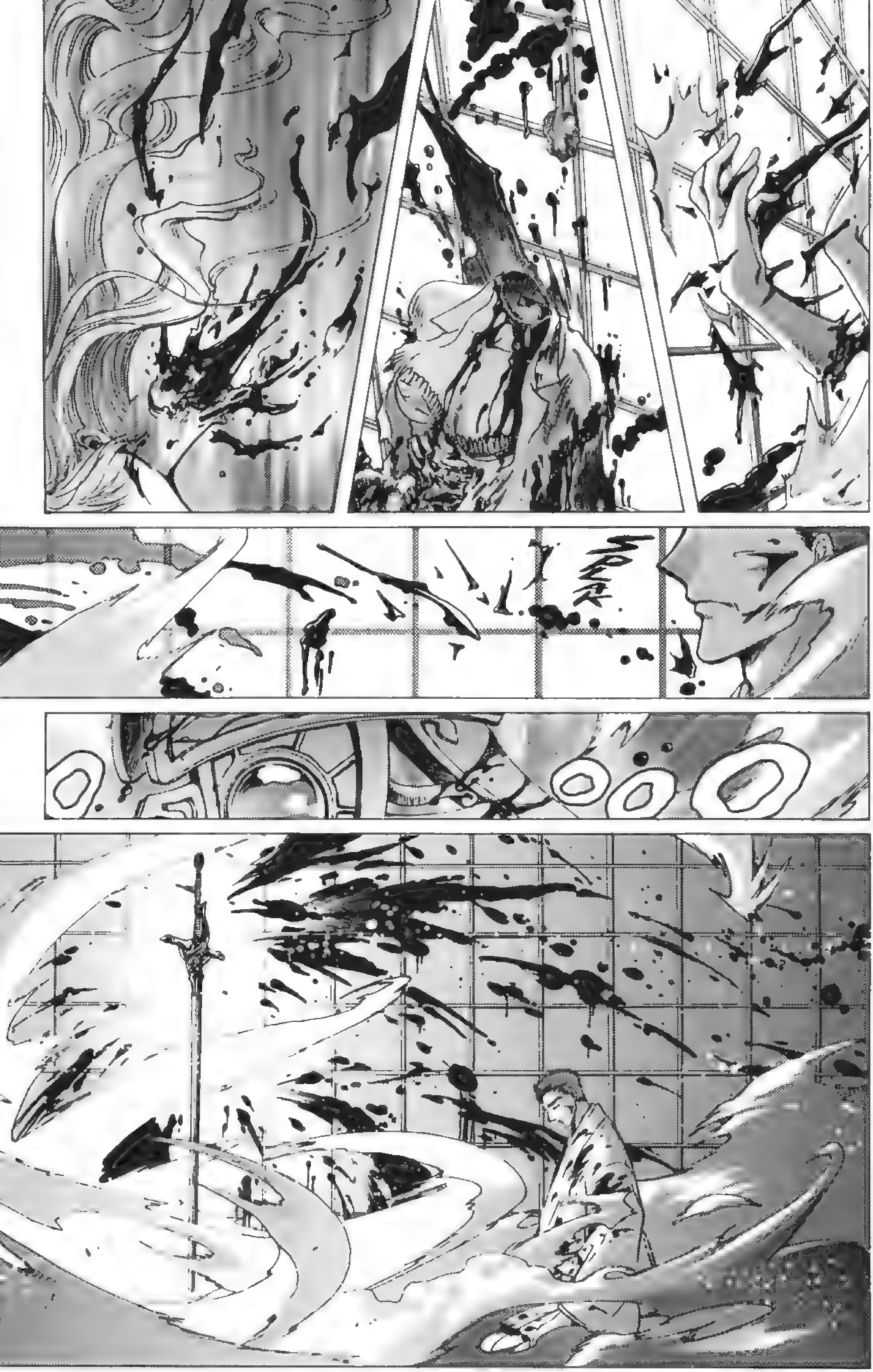

RSTL
RSTL
SO THE TIME HAS COME?
YES.
THE SACRED SWORD CAN ONLY BE BORN HERE, ON THIS DAY.
I HAVE JUST ENOUGH POWER TO BE ITS VESSEL, AND THAT'S THE CHOICE I'VE MADE.
TWITCH
FOR TORU'S SAKE?
I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN.
FROM THE DAY YOU FIRST CAME HERE...


...I KNEW THERE WAS ONLY ONE PERSON YOU LOVED...
KYOGO ...
...AND THAT IT WAS HER.
THEN WHY...?
WHY DID I MARRY YOU?
BECAUSE I LOVED YOU WITH ALL MY HEART...
...EVEN KNOWING THAT YOU'D NEVER LOVE ME BACK.

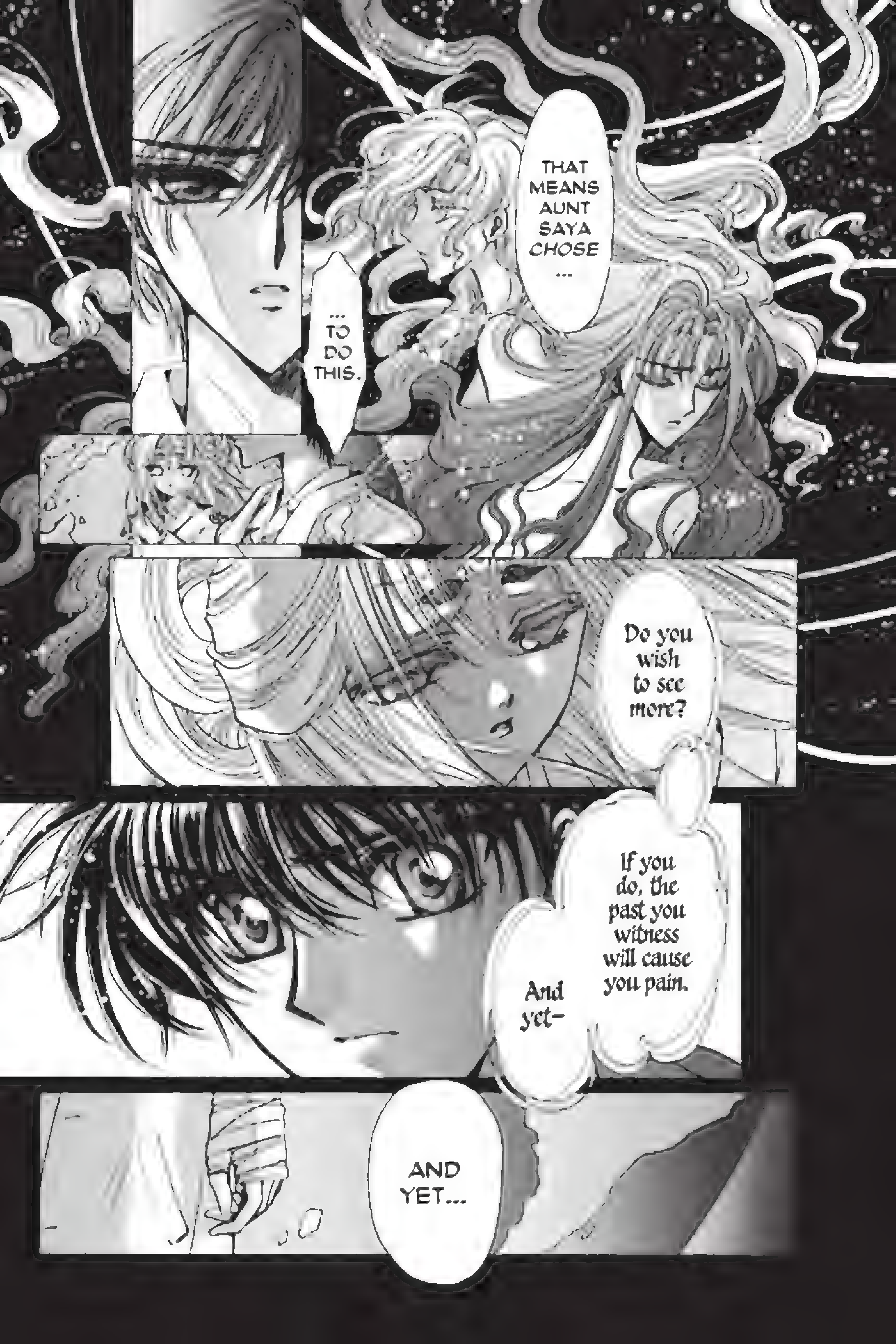

I... I'M SO SORRY...
THERE'S NO NEED.
YOU WERE A GOOD WIFE...
...AND A WONDERFUL MOTHER TO OUR CHILDREN.
GLOW
GLOW
FWASHH
KYOGO, I...

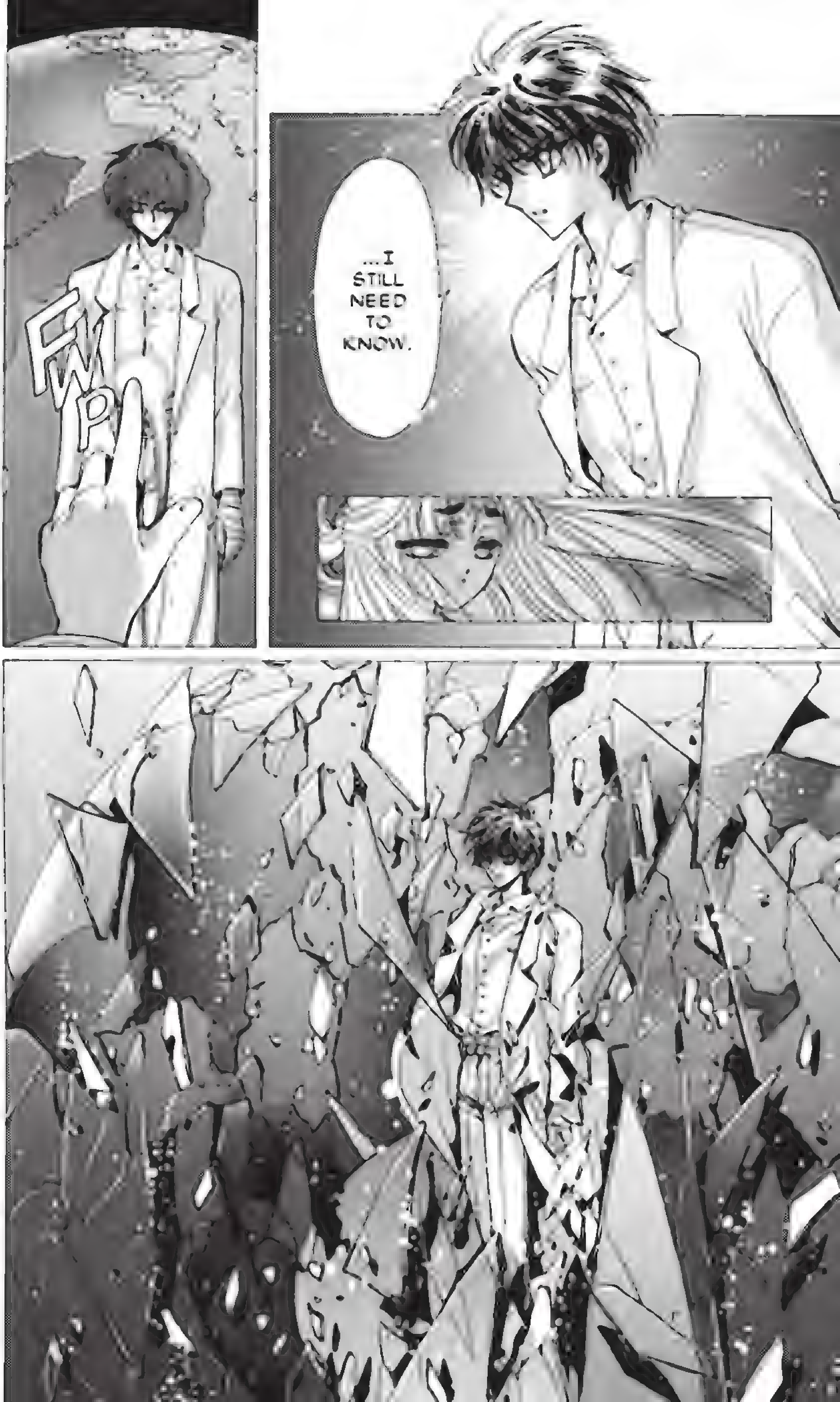

MY DUTY...
...IS TO PROTECT THE SACRED SWORD.
UNTIL THE DAY THE KAMUI COMES TO CLAIM IT...
...I VOW TO PROTECT THIS SWORD YOU HAVE GIVEN YOUR LIFE FOR.

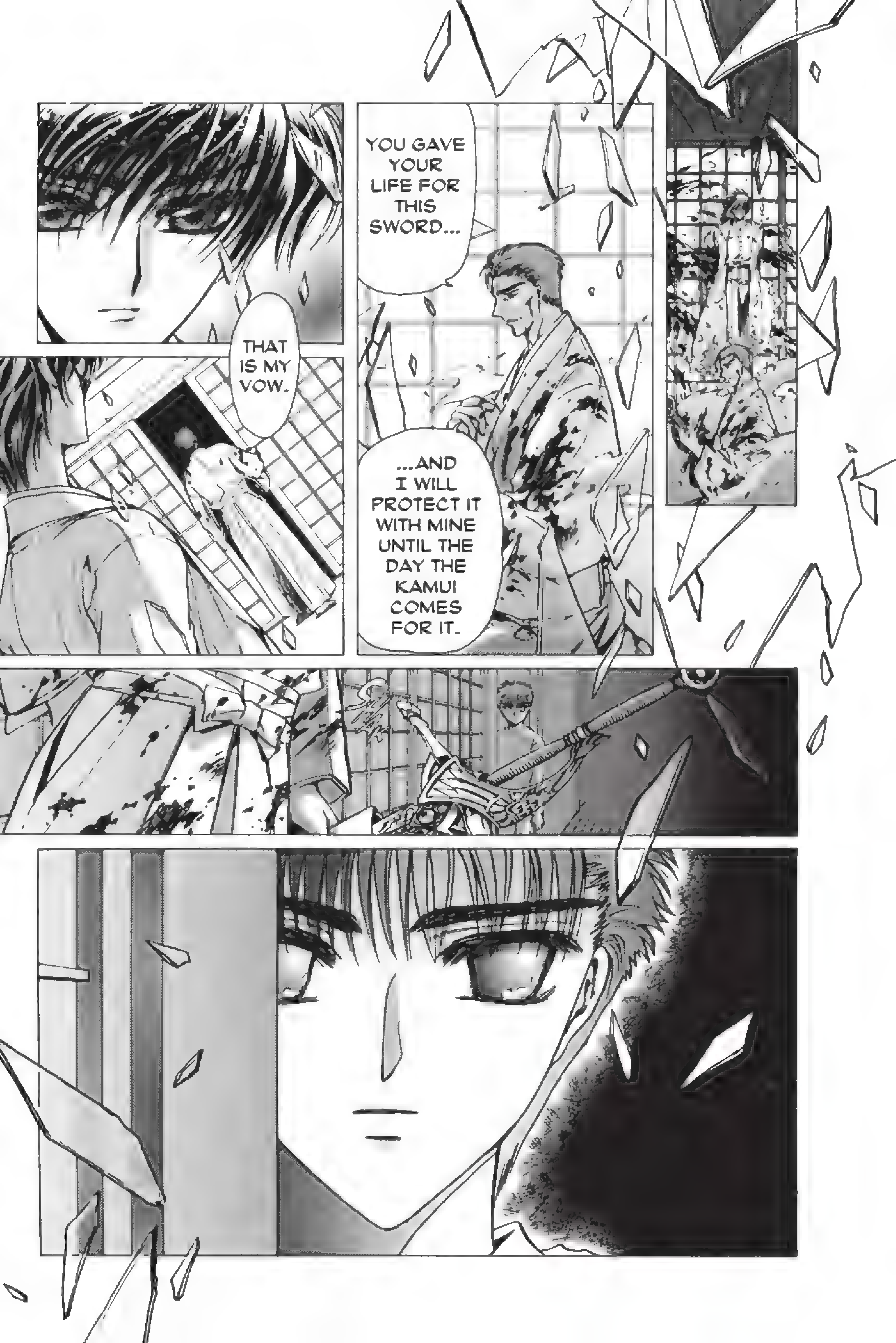


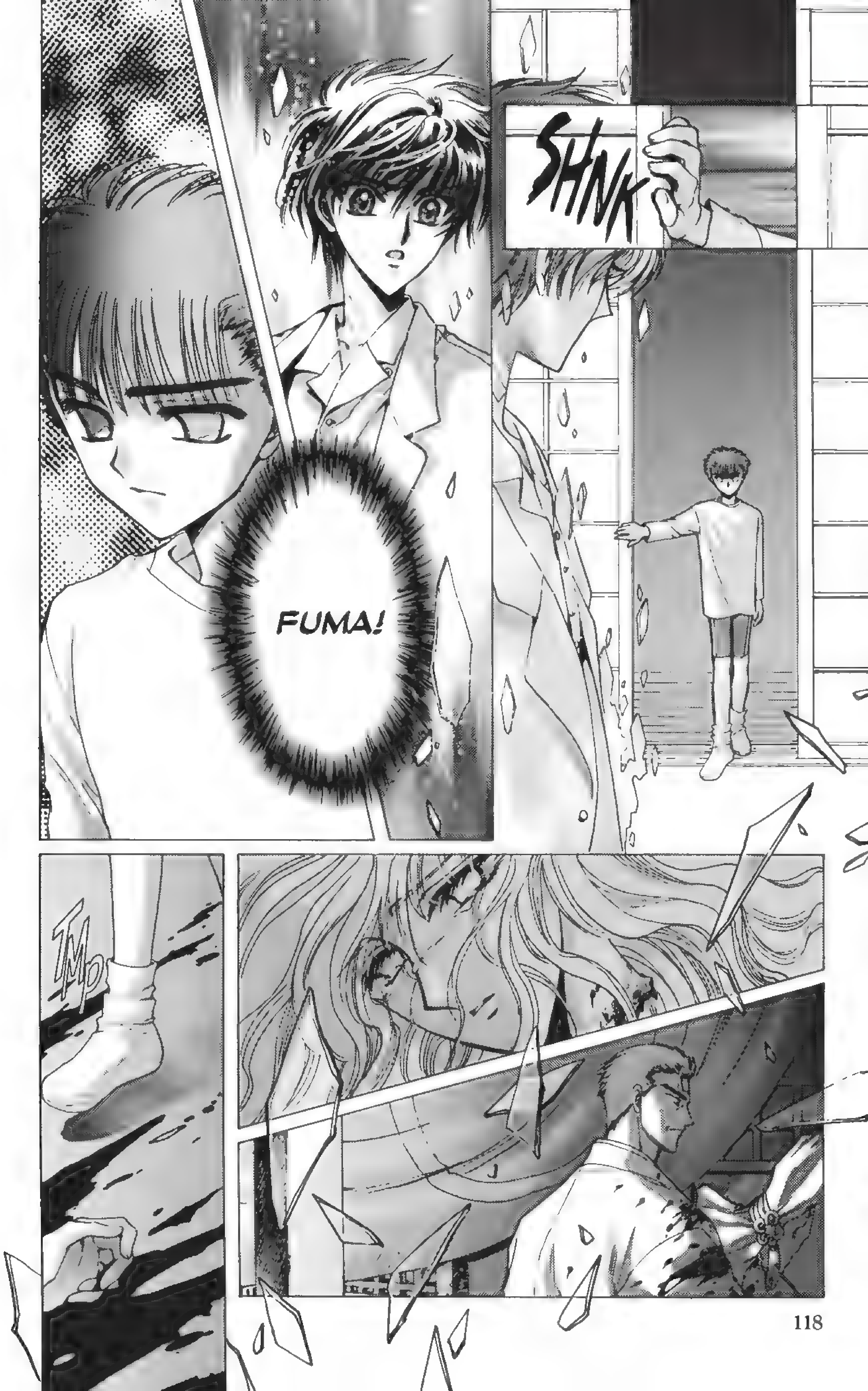

WHURK

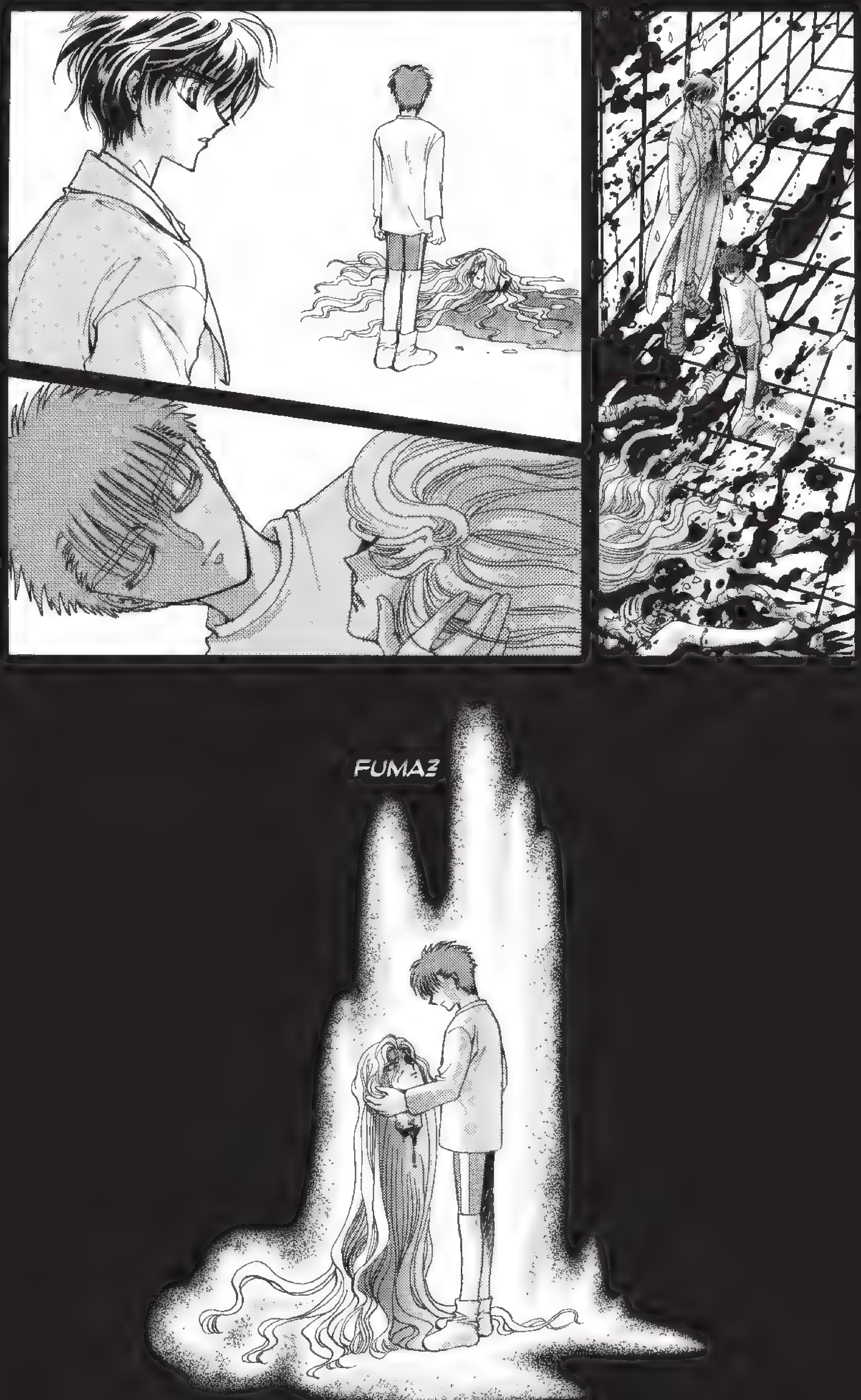
SAYA...
THEN THAT ...

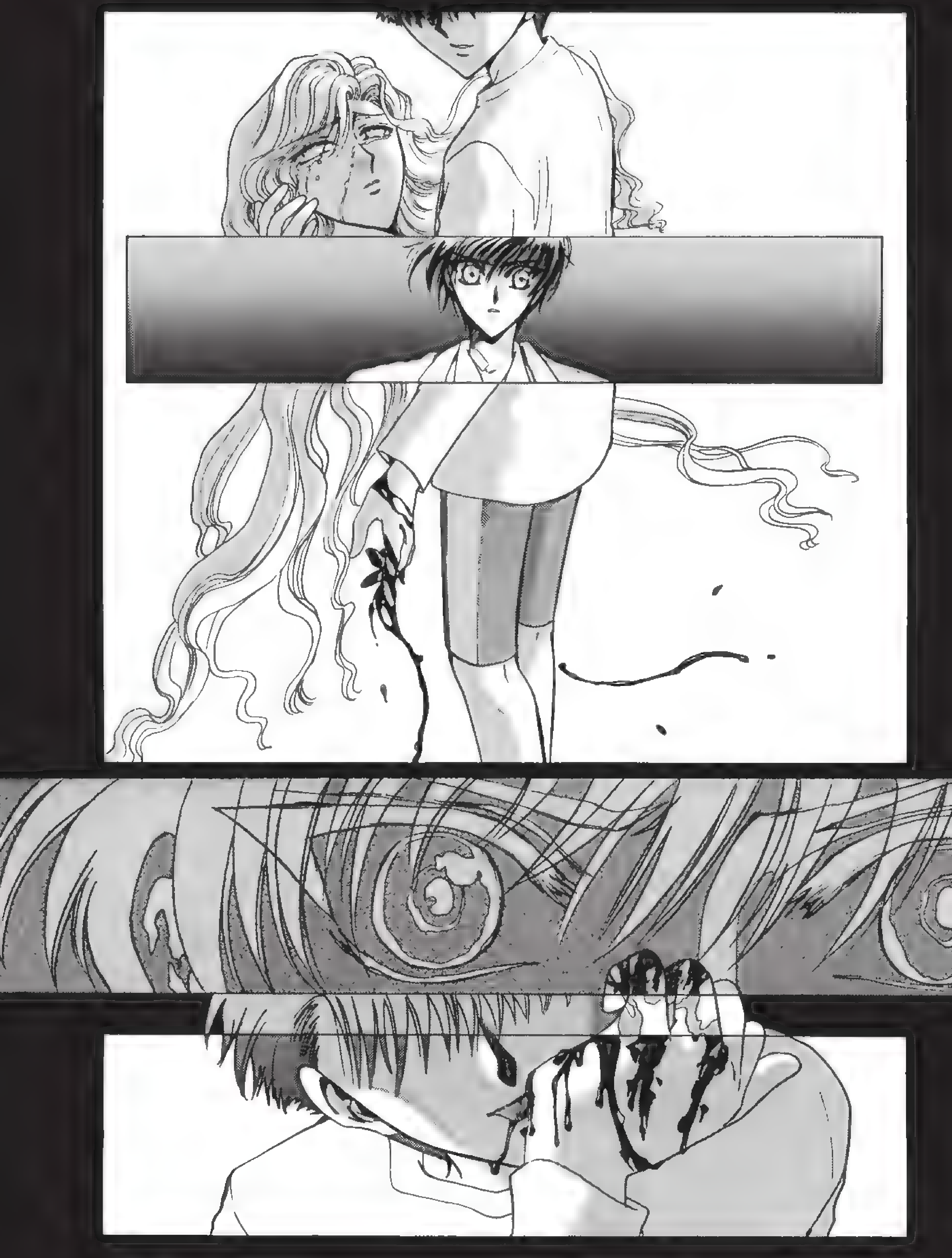

THAT MEANS AUNT SAYA *CHOSE* ...
... TO DO THIS.
Do you wish to see more?
If you do, the past you witness will cause you pain.
And yet-
AND YET...

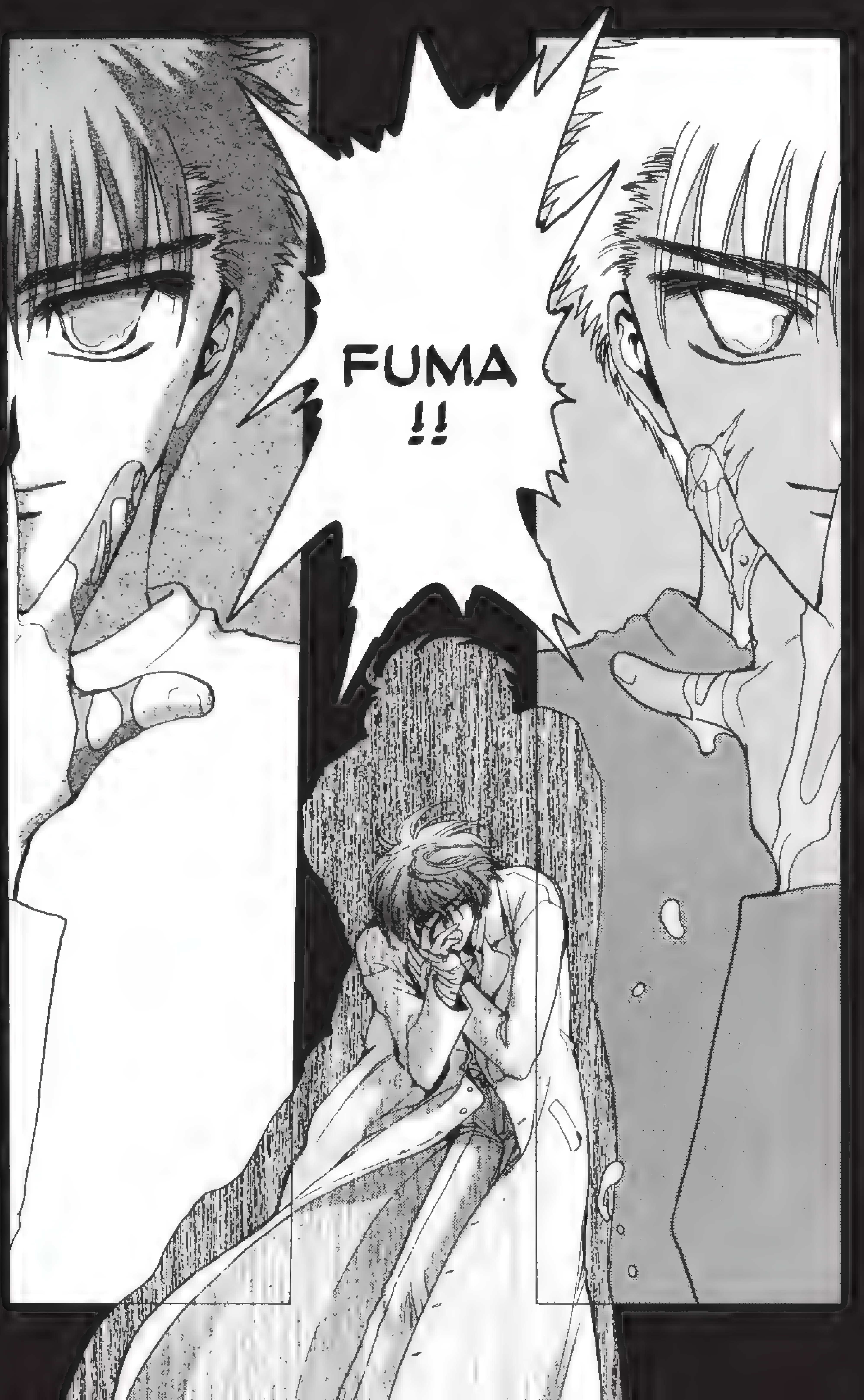

...I STILL NEED TO KNOW.
FWP

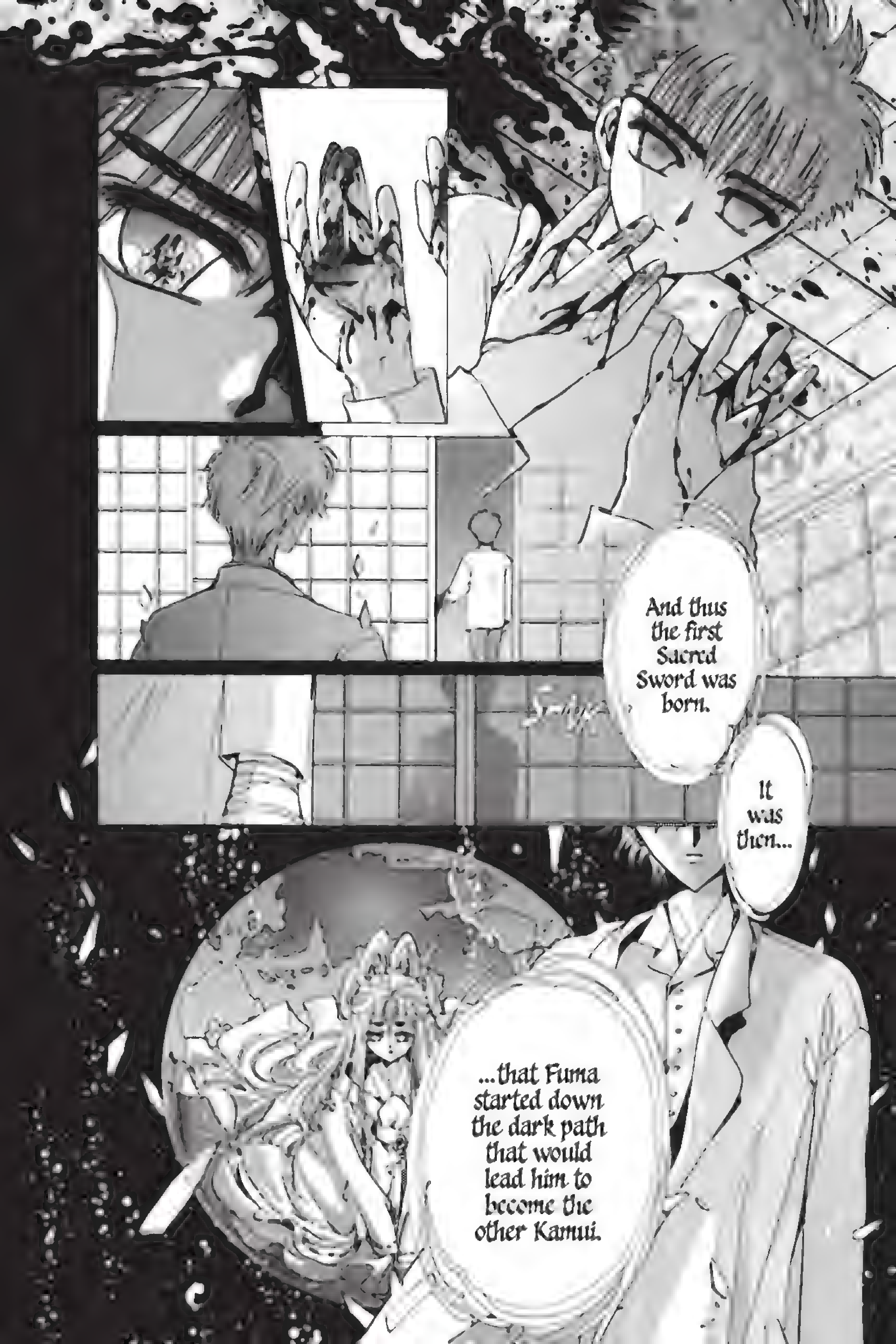

YOU GAVE YOUR LIFE FOR THIS SWORD...
...AND I WILL PROTECT IT WITH MINE UNTIL THE DAY THE KAMUI COMES FOR IT.
THAT IS MY VOW.

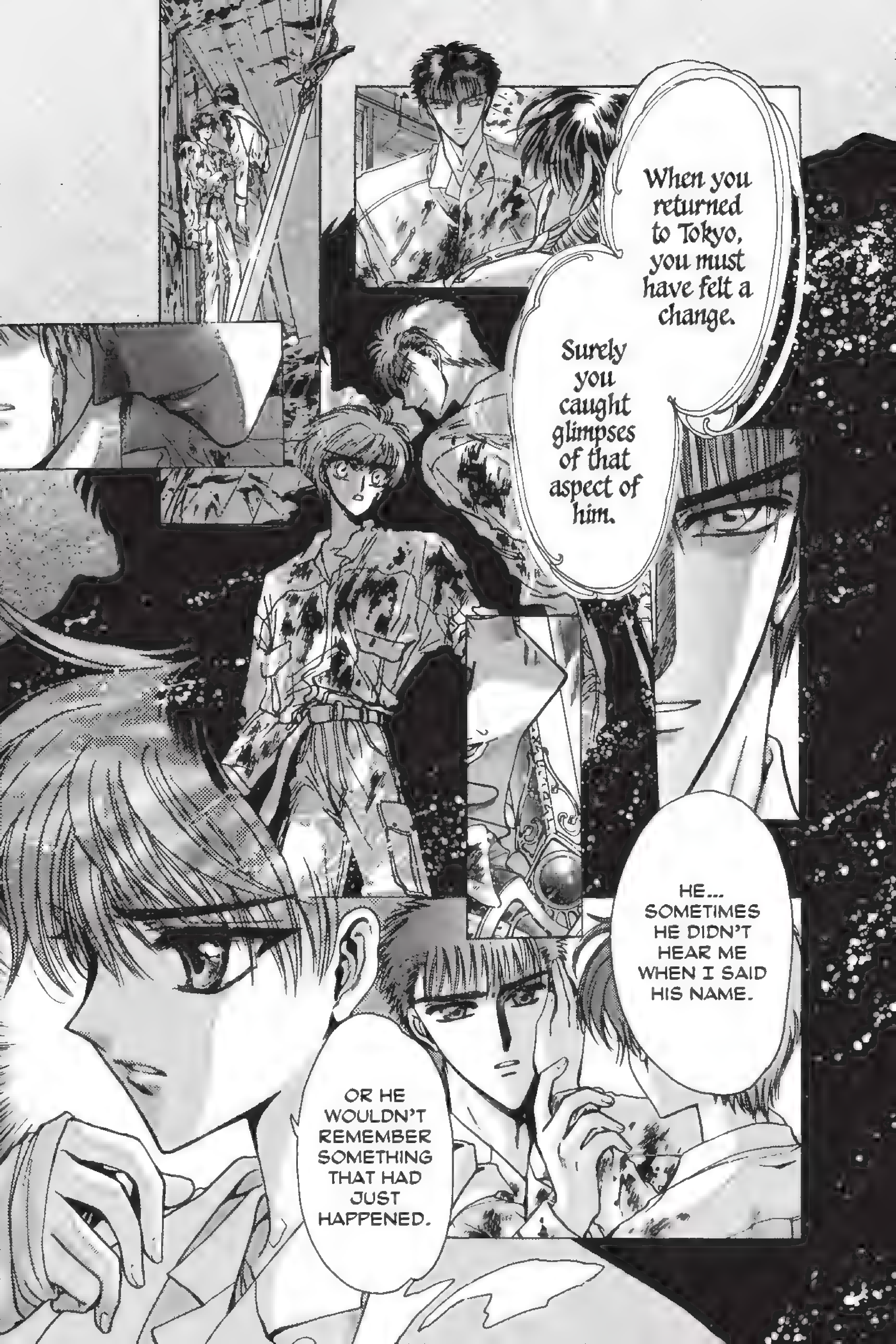

SHINK
FUMA!
TMP

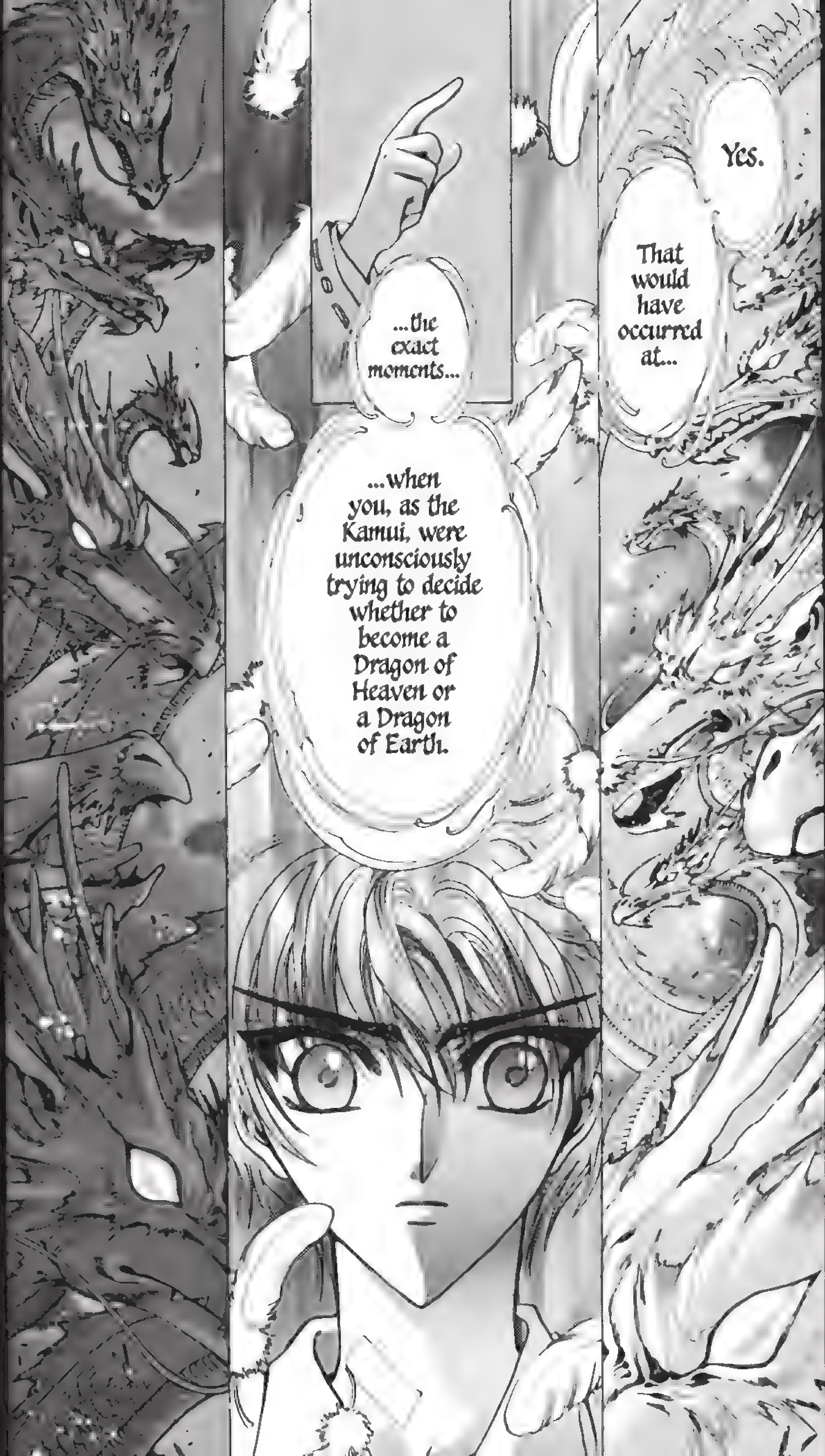

FUMA?

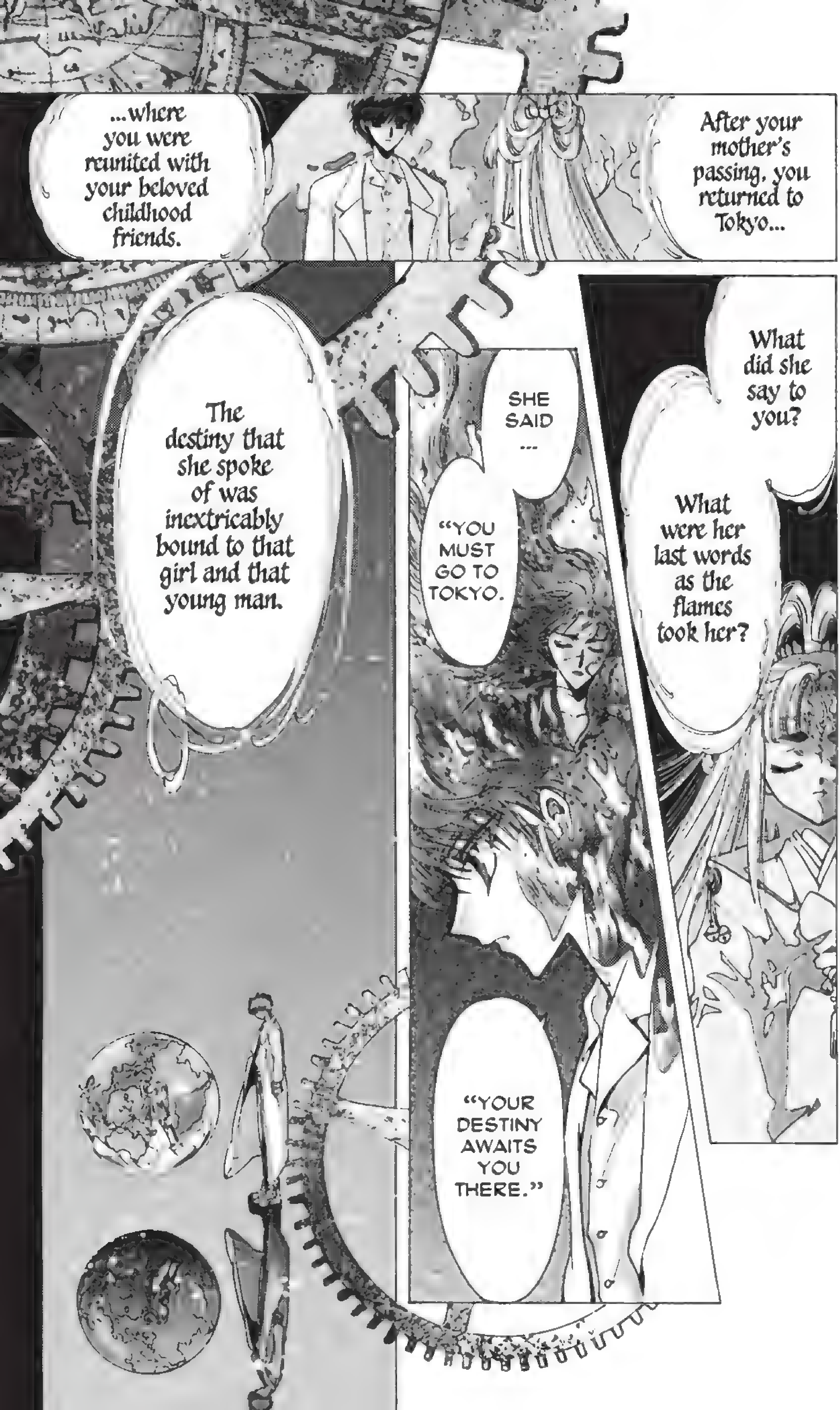


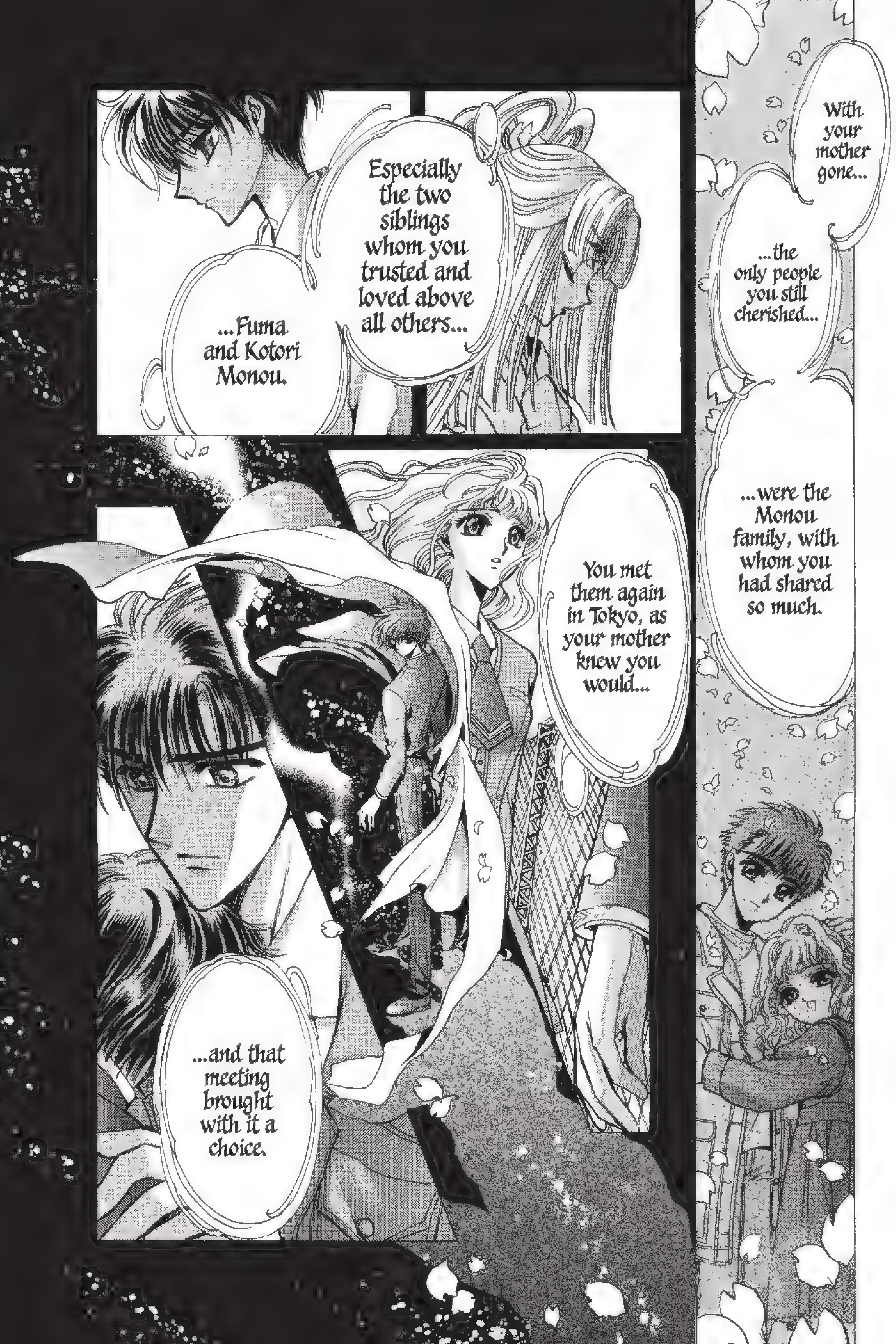

FUMA
!!

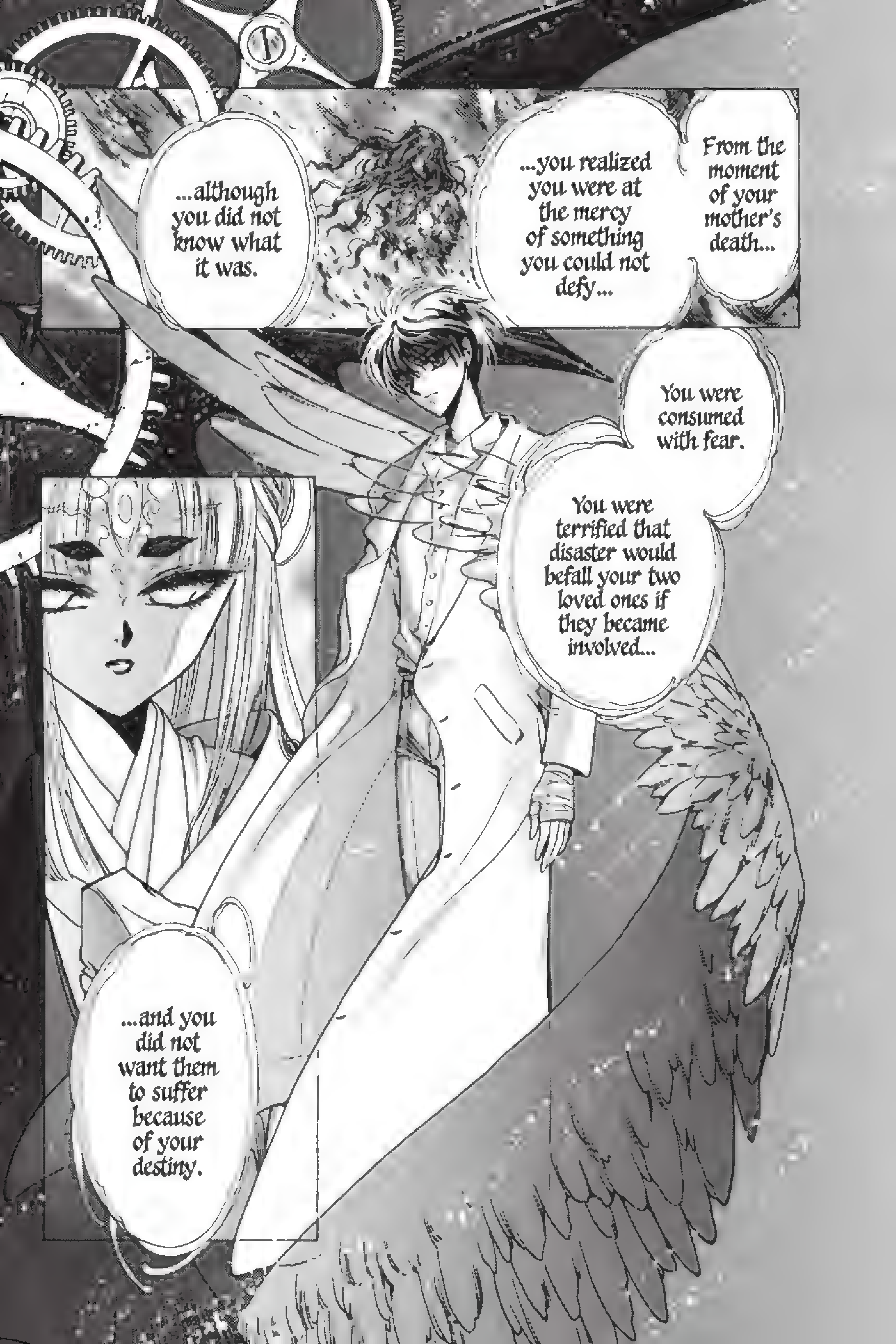

And thus the first Sacred Sword was born.
It was then...
...that Fuma started down the dark path that would lead him to become the other Kamui.

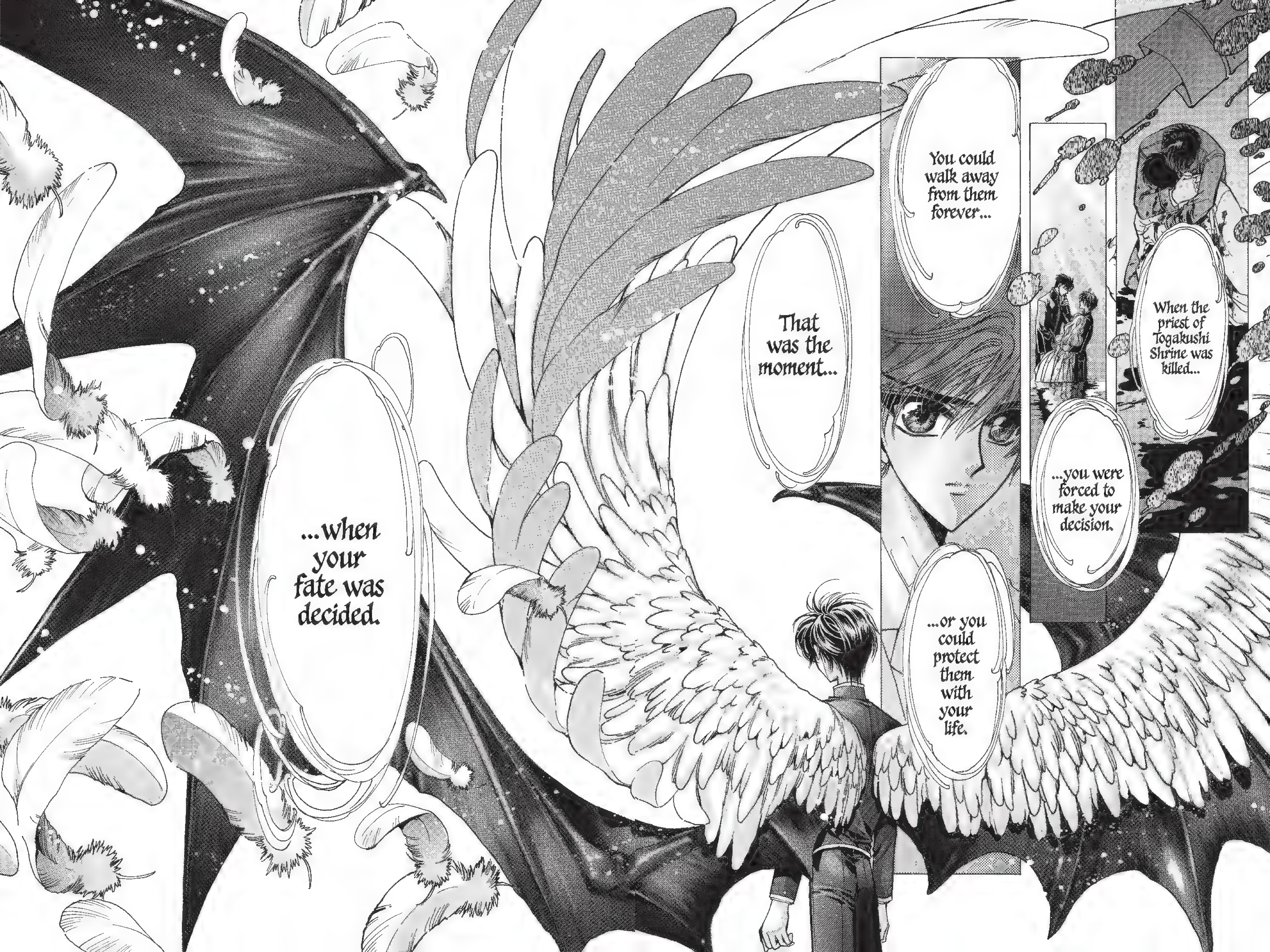

When you returned to Tokyo, you must have felt a change.
Surely you caught glimpses of that aspect of him.
HE... SOMETIMES HE DIDN'T HEAR ME WHEN I SAID HIS NAME.
OR HE WOULDN'T REMEMBER SOMETHING THAT HAD JUST HAPPENED.

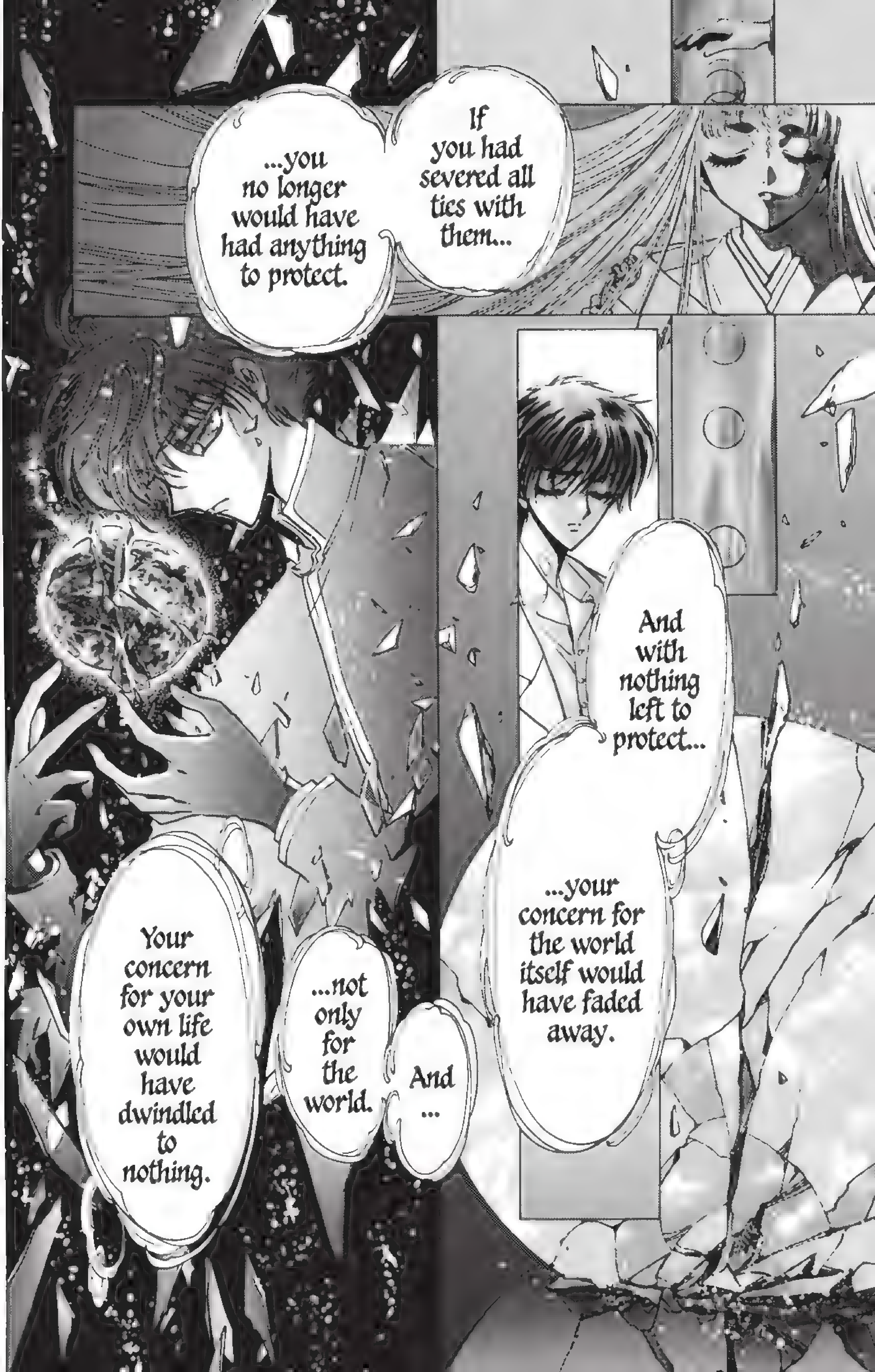

Yes.
That would have occurred at...
...the exact moments...
...when you, as the Kamui, were unconsciously trying to decide whether to become a Dragon of Heaven or a Dragon of Earth.

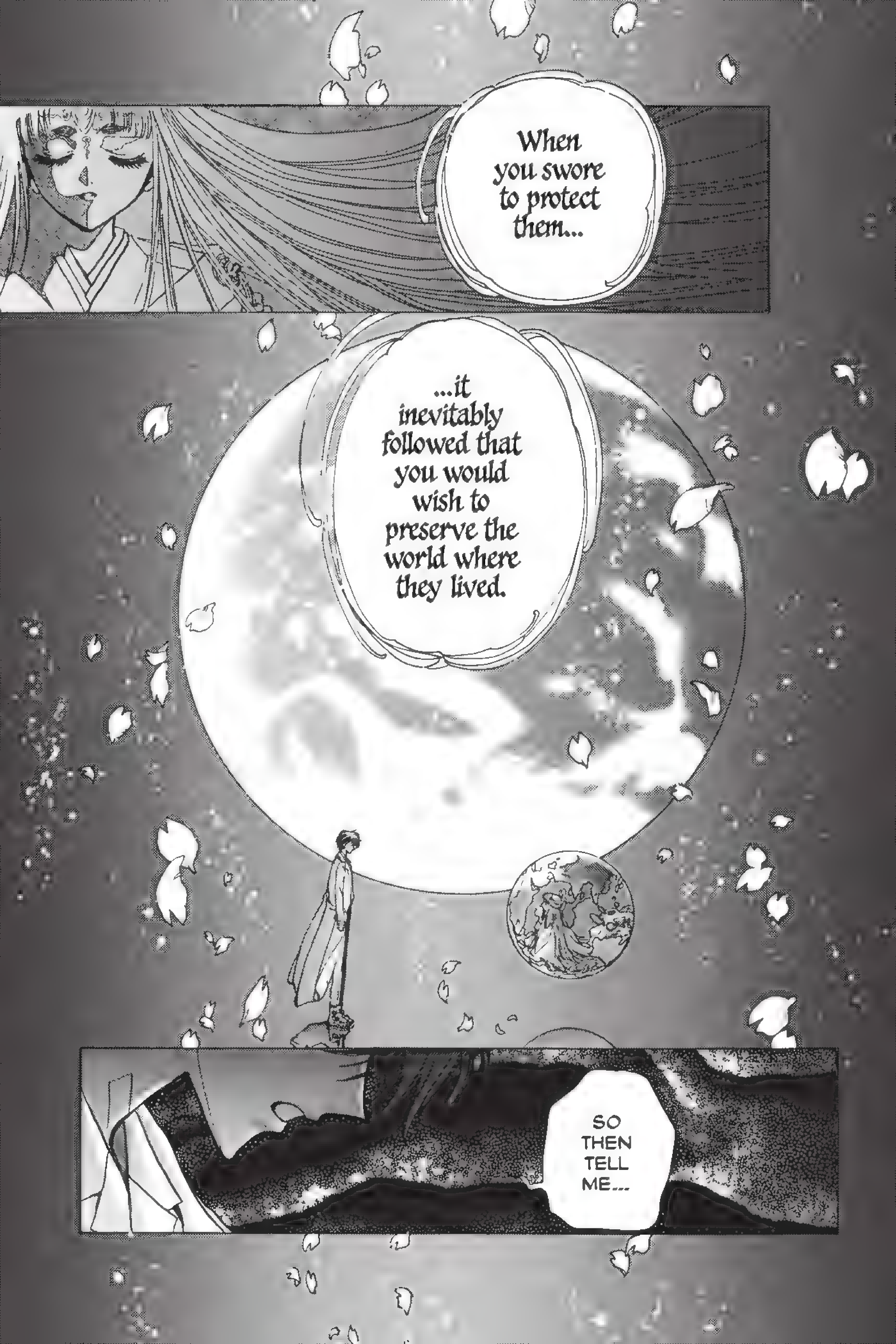

After your mother's passing, you returned to Tokyo...
...where you were reunited with your beloved childhood friends.
What did she say to you?
What were her last words as the flames took her?
SHE SAID ...
“YOU MUST GO TO TOKYO.
“YOUR DESTINY AWAITS YOU THERE.”
The destiny that she spoke of was inextricably bound to that girl and that young man.

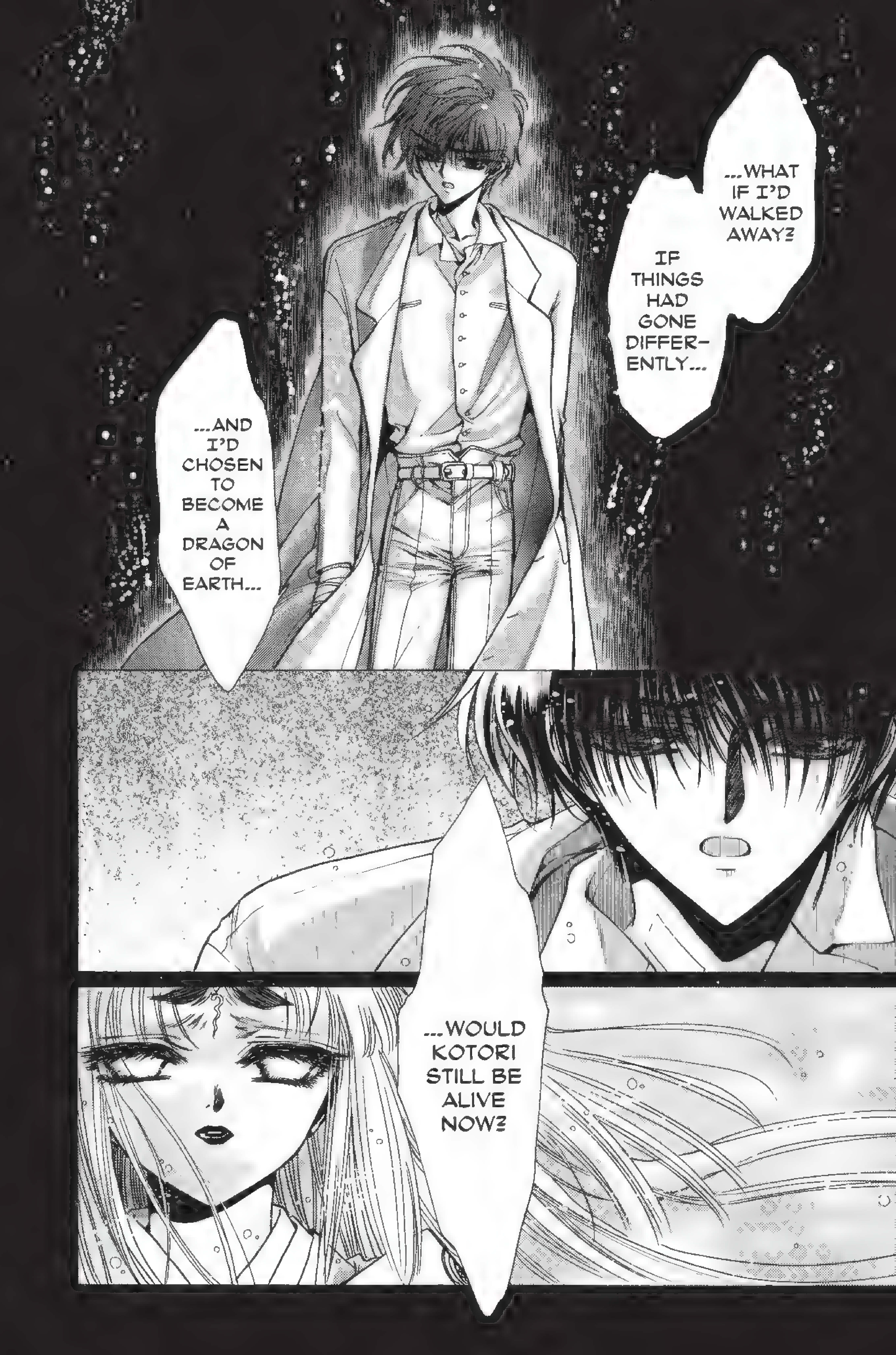

With your mother gone...
...the only people you still cherished...
...were the Monou family, with whom you had shared so much.
Especially the two siblings whom you trusted and loved above all others...
...Fuma and Kotori Monou.
You met them again in Tokyo, as your mother knew you would...
...and that meeting brought with it a choice.

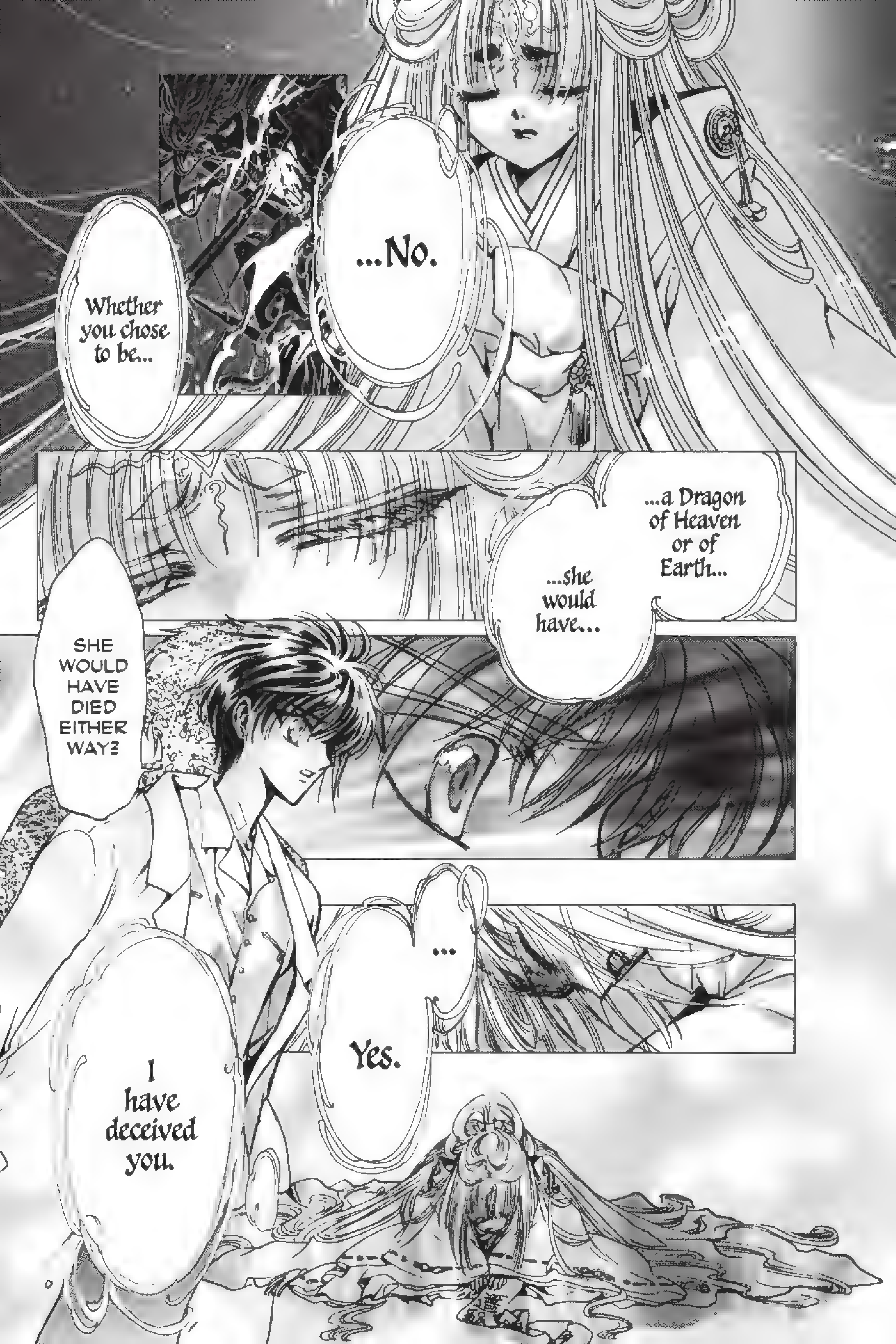

From the moment of your mother's death...
...you realized you were at the mercy of something you could not defy...
...although you did not know what it was.
You were consumed with fear.
You were terrified that disaster would befall your two loved ones if they became involved...
...and you did not want them to suffer because of your destiny.

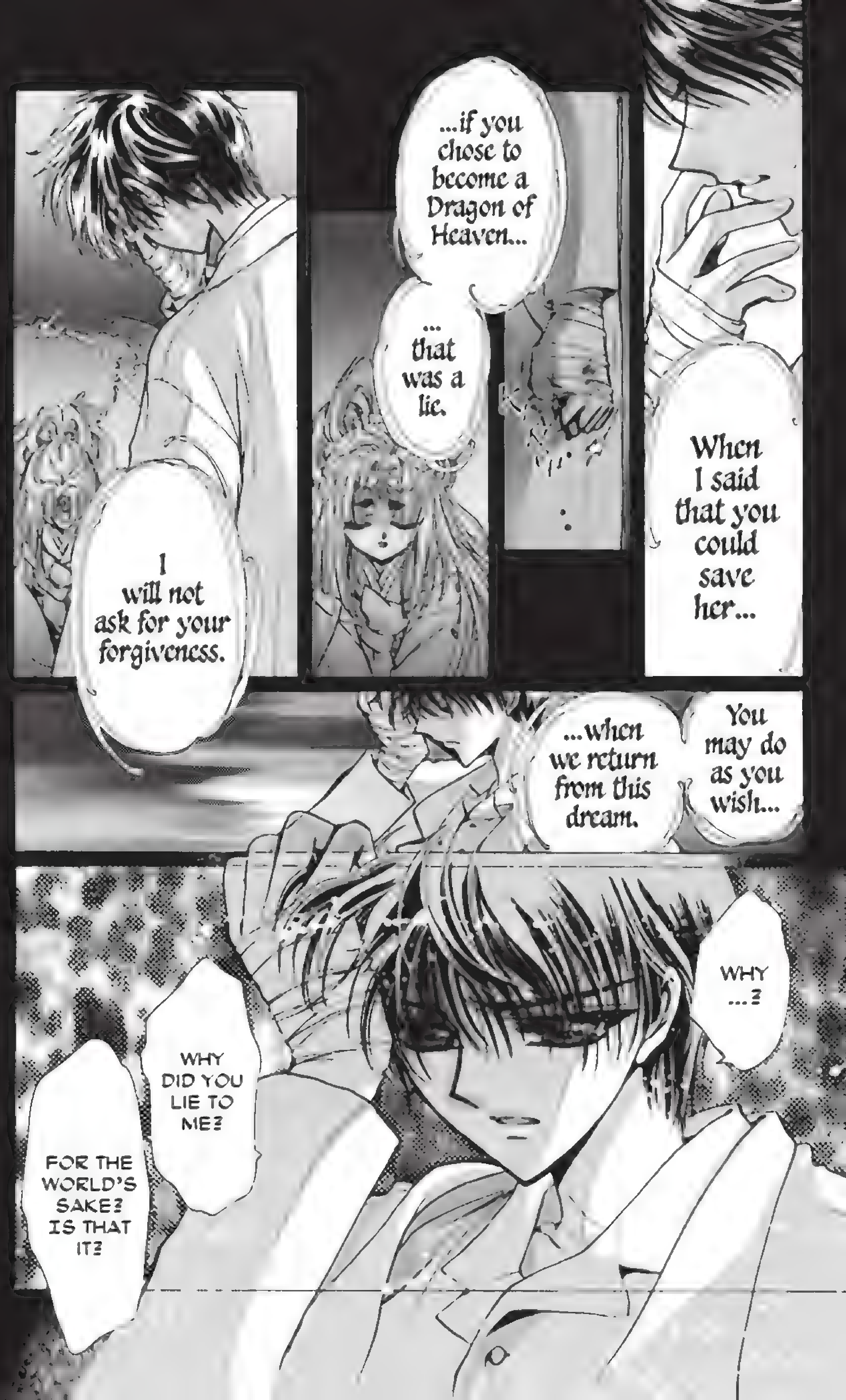

When the priest of Togakushi Shrine was killed...
...you were forced to make your decision.
You could walk away from them forever...
...or you could protect them with your life.
That was the moment...
...when your fate was decided.

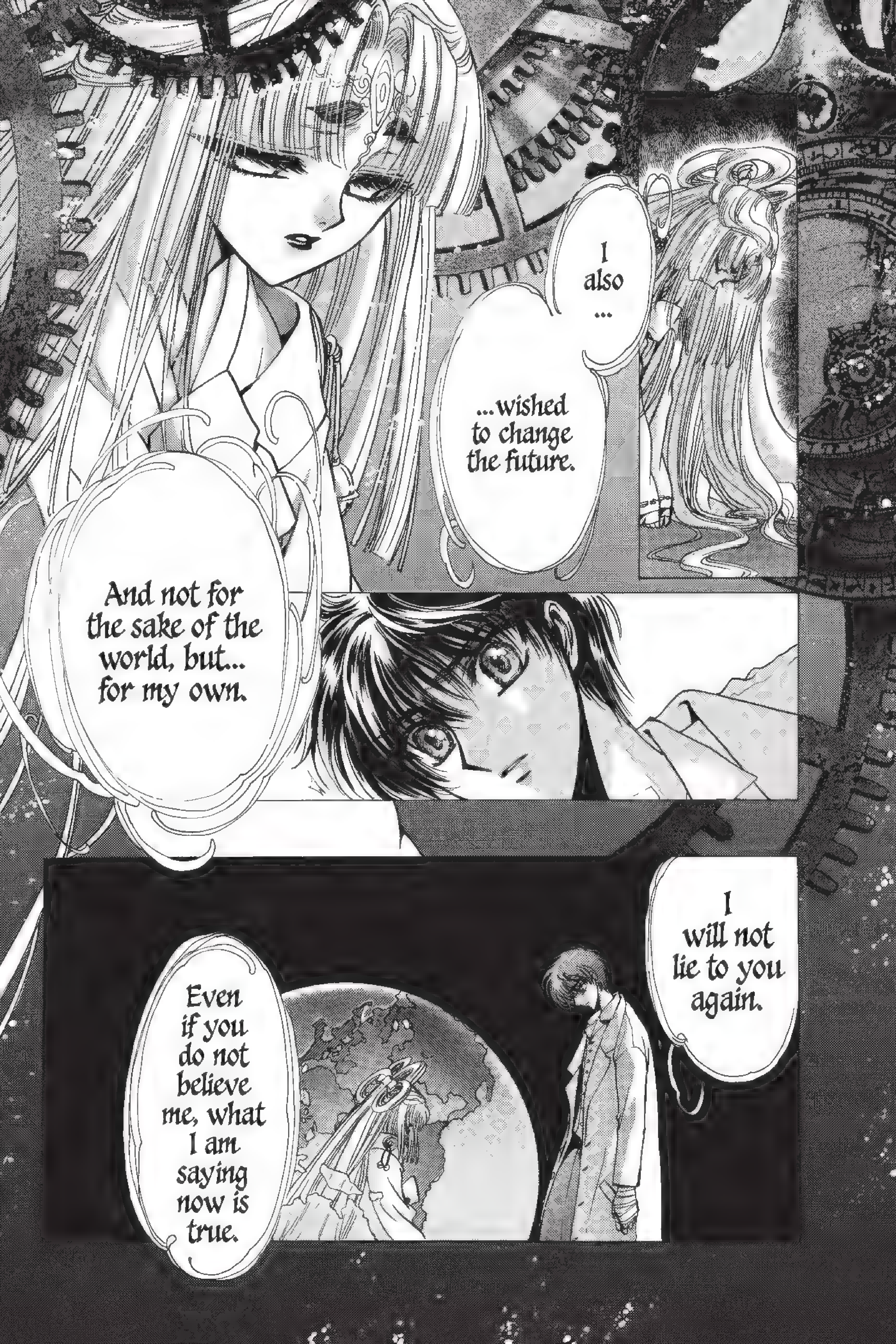

If you had severed all ties with them...
...you no longer would have had anything to protect.
And with nothing left to protect...
...your concern for the world itself would have faded away.
And...
...not only for the world.
Your concern for your own life would have dwindled to nothing.

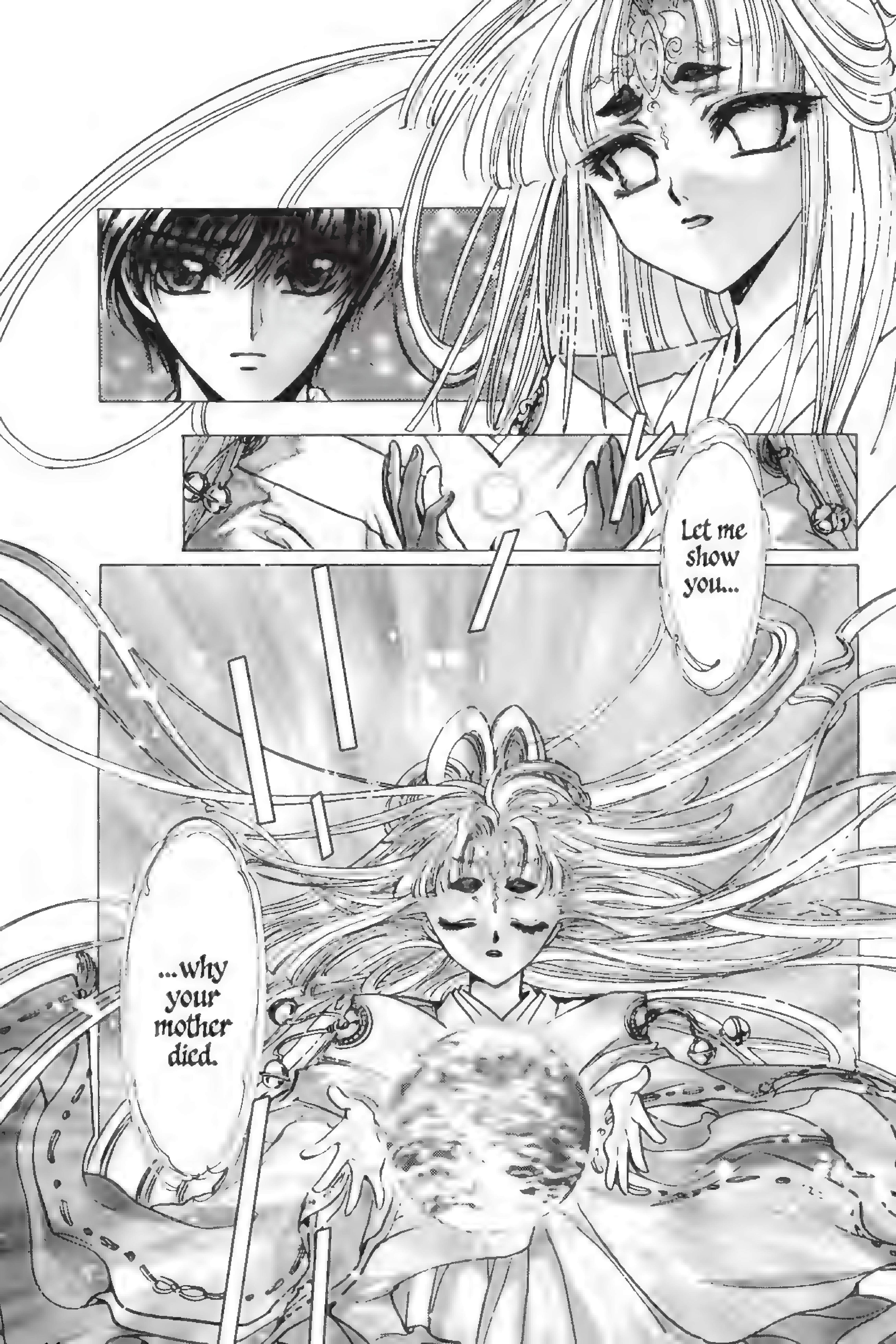

When you swore to protect them...
...it inevitably followed that you would wish to preserve the world where they lived.
SO THEN TELL ME...

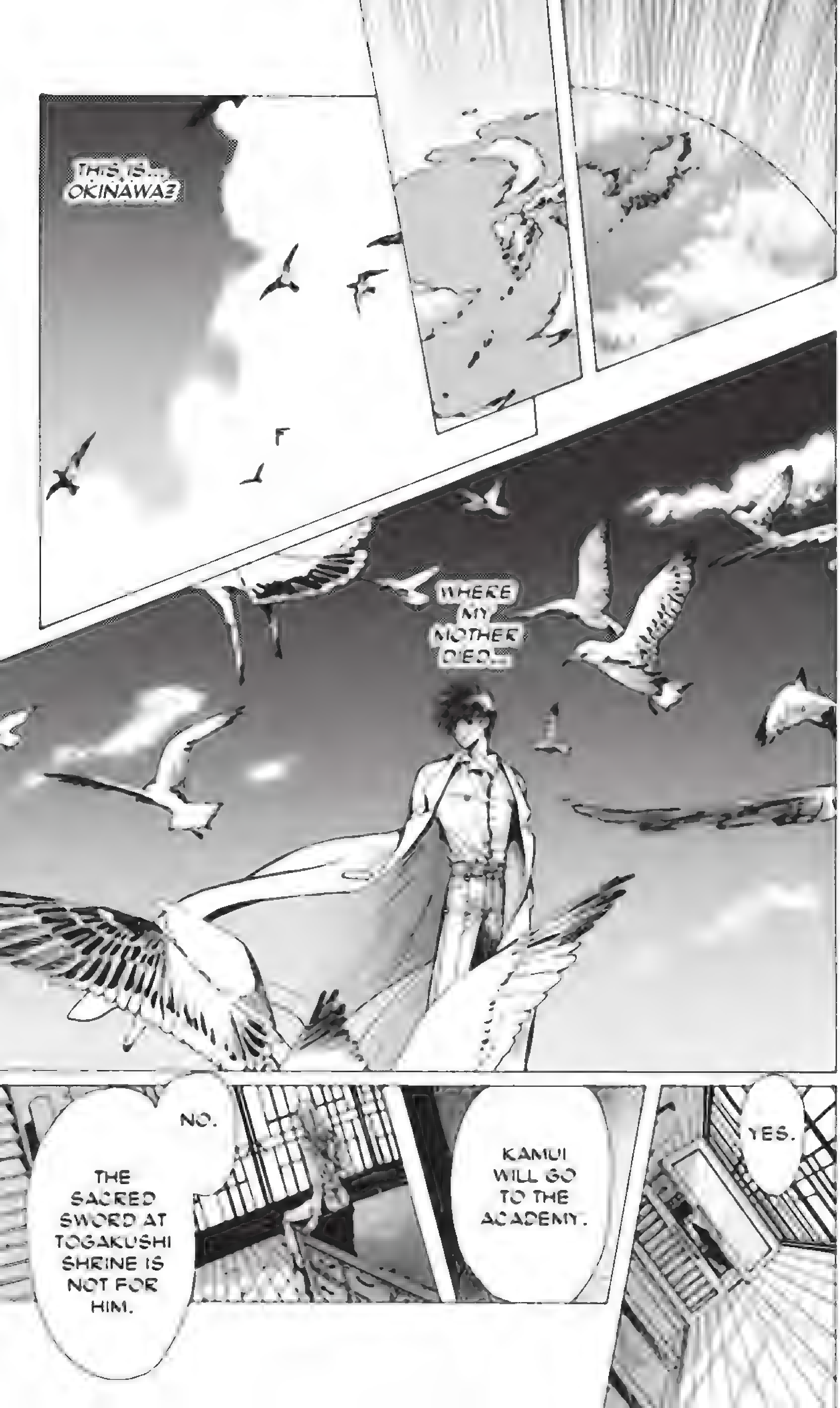

...WHAT IF I'D WALKED AWAY?
IF THINGS HAD GONE DIFFERENTLY...
...AND I'D CHOSEN TO BECOME A DRAGON OF EARTH...
...WOULD KOTORI STILL BE ALIVE NOW?

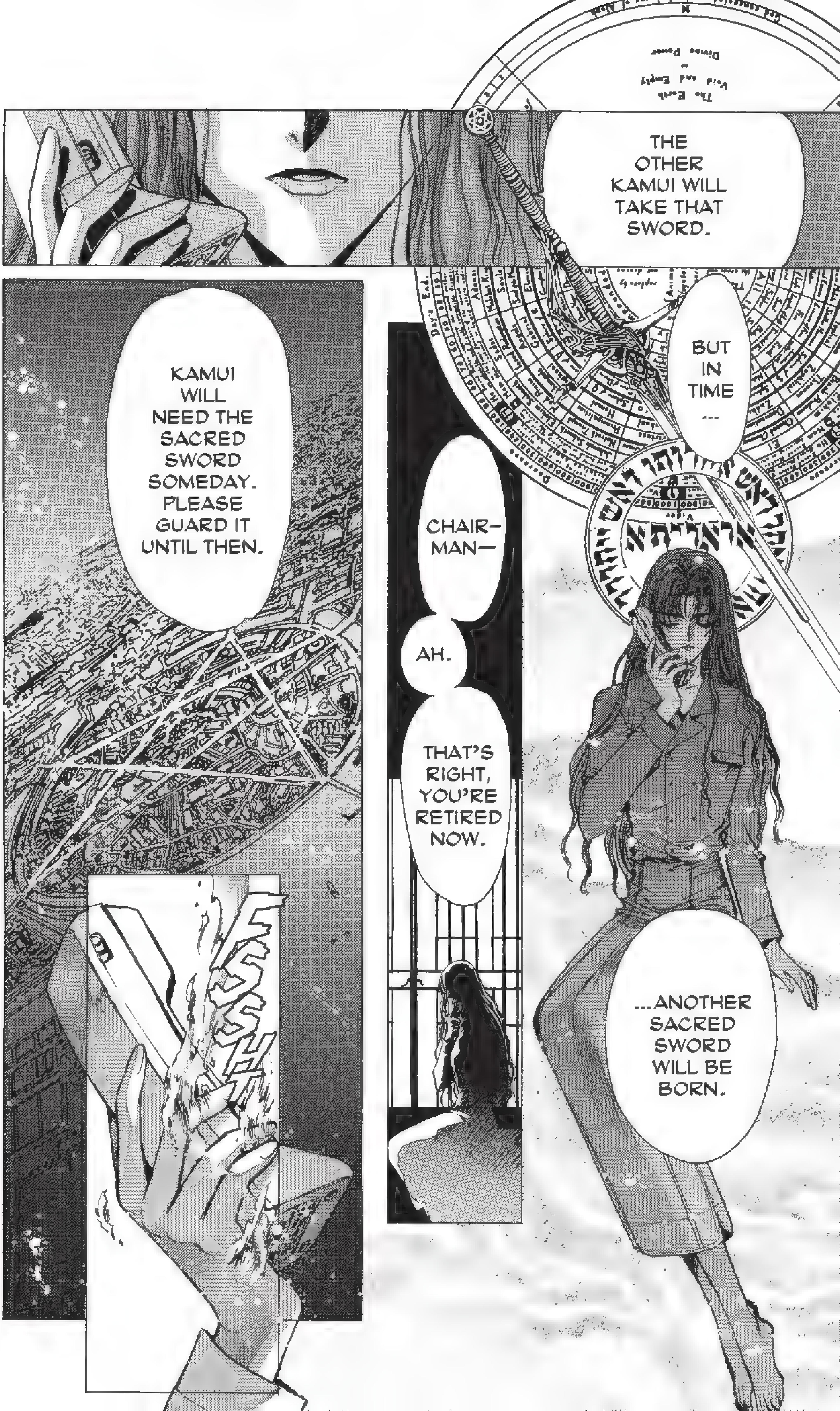

...No.
Whether you chose to be...
...a Dragon of Heaven or of Earth...
...she would have...
SHE WOULD HAVE DIED EITHER WAY?
...
Yes.
I have deceived you.

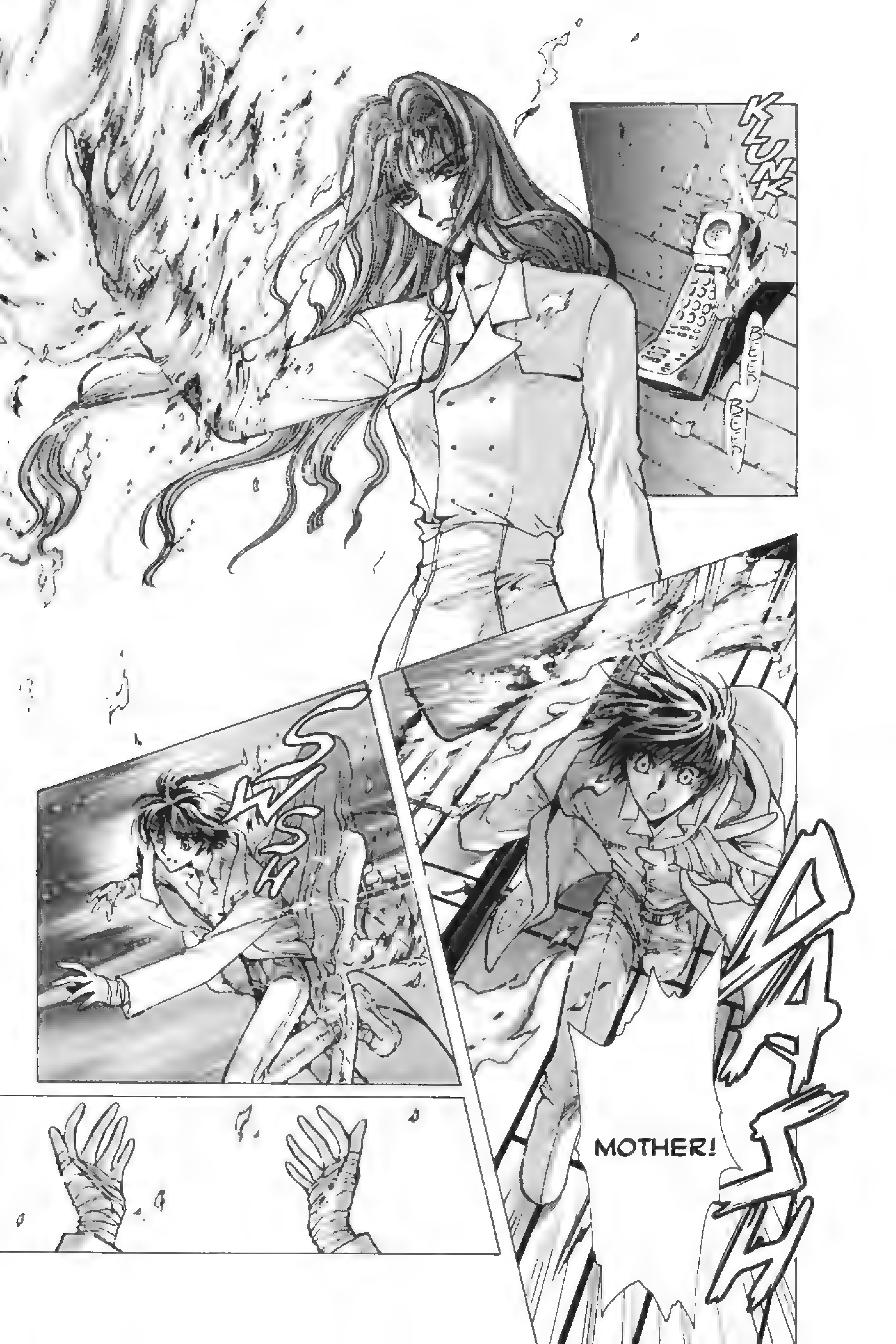

When I said that you could save her...
...if you chose to become a Dragon of Heaven...
...that was a lie.
I will not ask for your forgiveness.
You may do as you wish...
...when we return from this dream.
WHY ...?
WHY DID YOU LIE TO ME?
FOR THE WORLD'S SAKE? IS THAT IT?

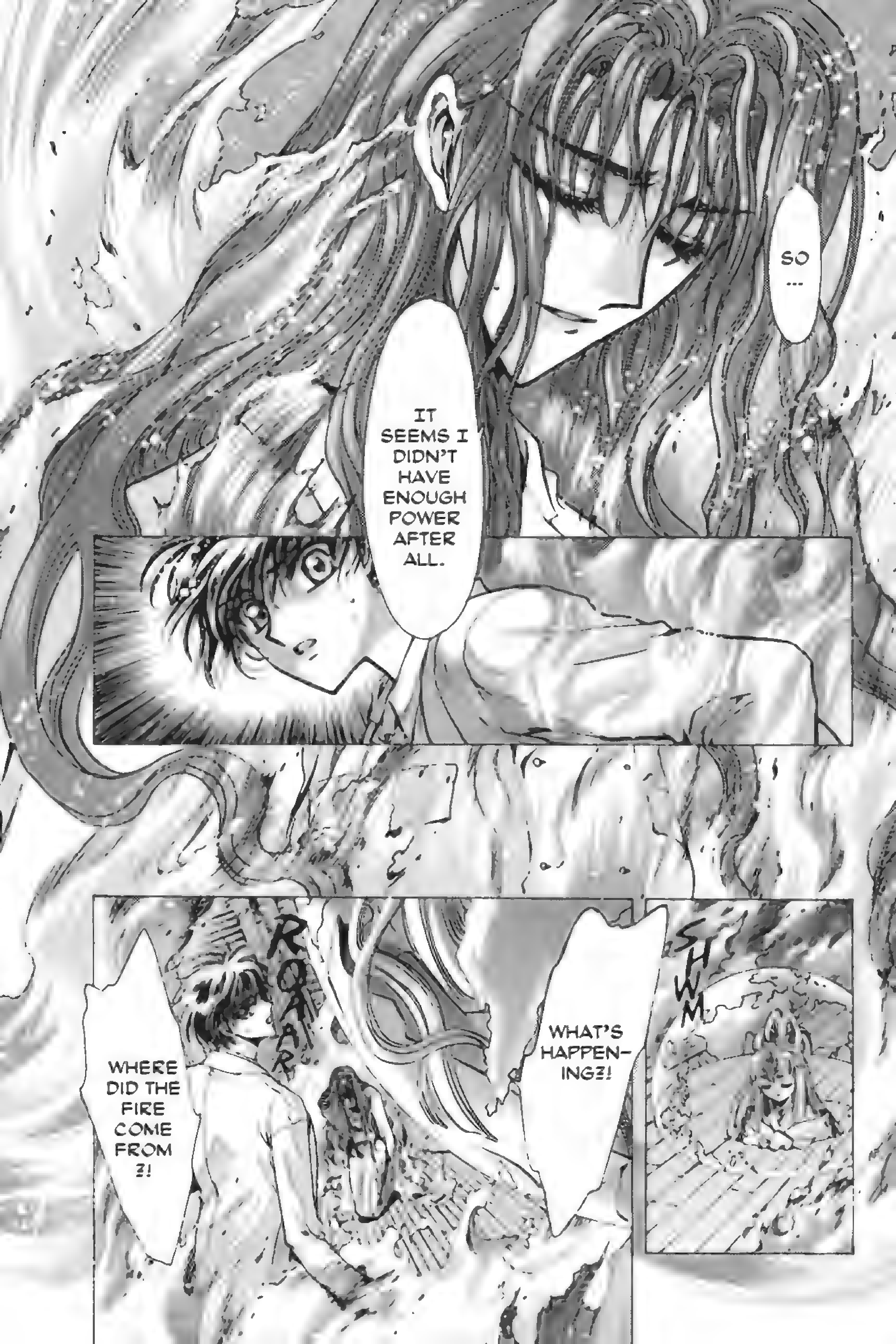

I also ...
...wished to change the future.
And not for the sake of the world, but... for my own.
I will not lie to you again.
Even if you do not believe me, what I am saying now is true.

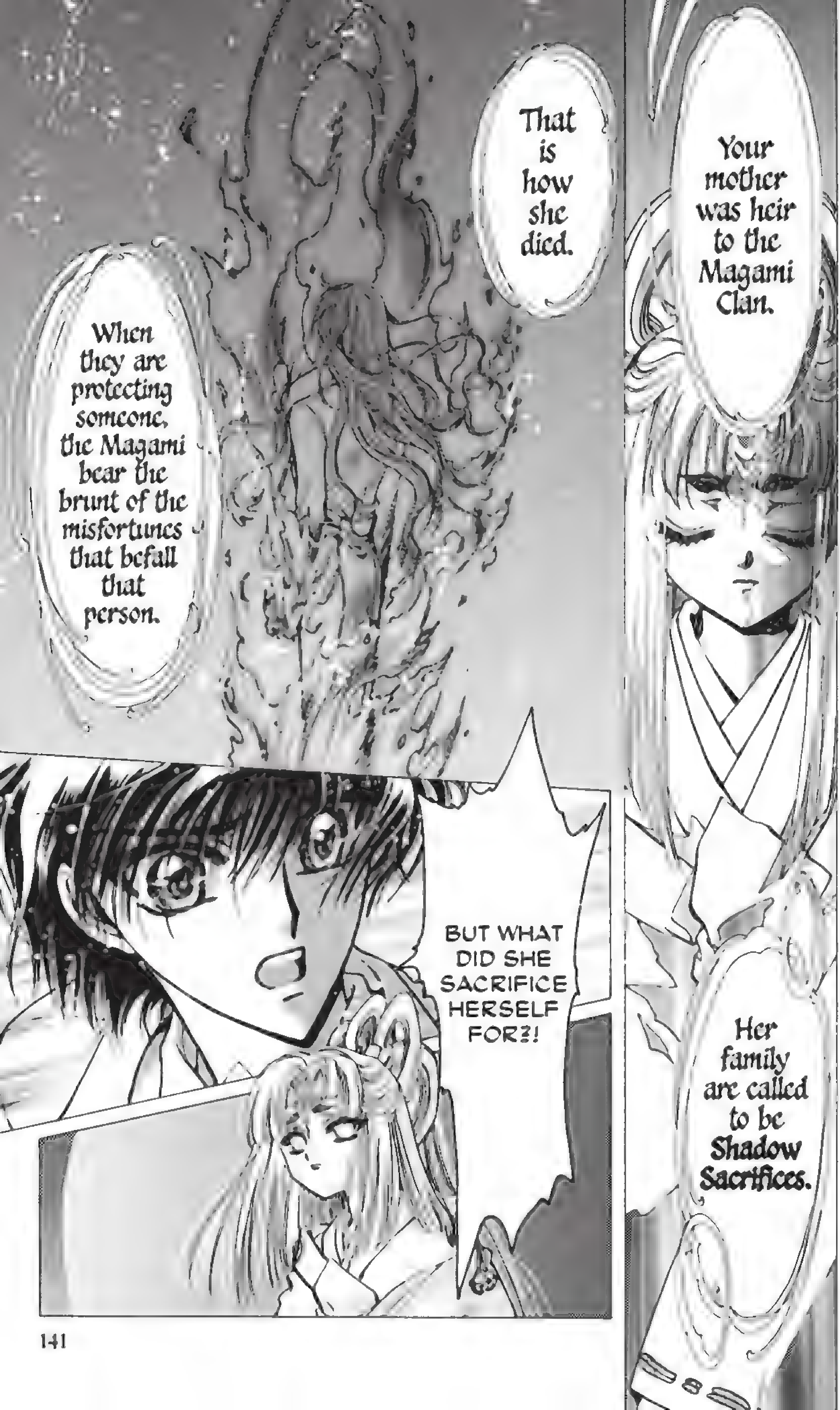

Let me show you...
...why your mother died.

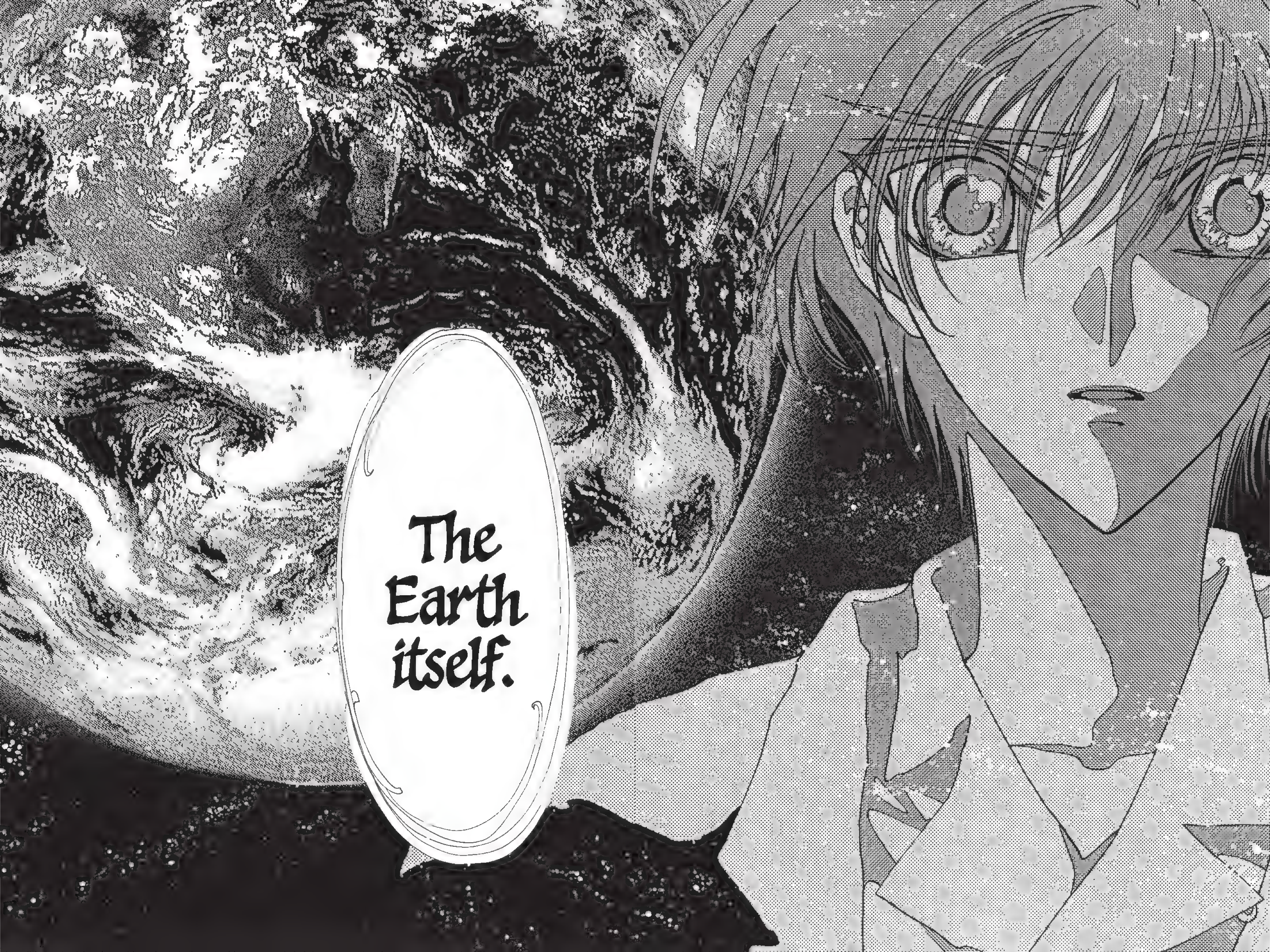

THIS IS... OKINAWA?
WHERE MY MOTHER DIED...
YES.
KAMUI WILL GO TO THE ACADEMY.
NO.
THE SACRED SWORD AT TOGAKUSHI SHRINE IS NOT FOR HIM.

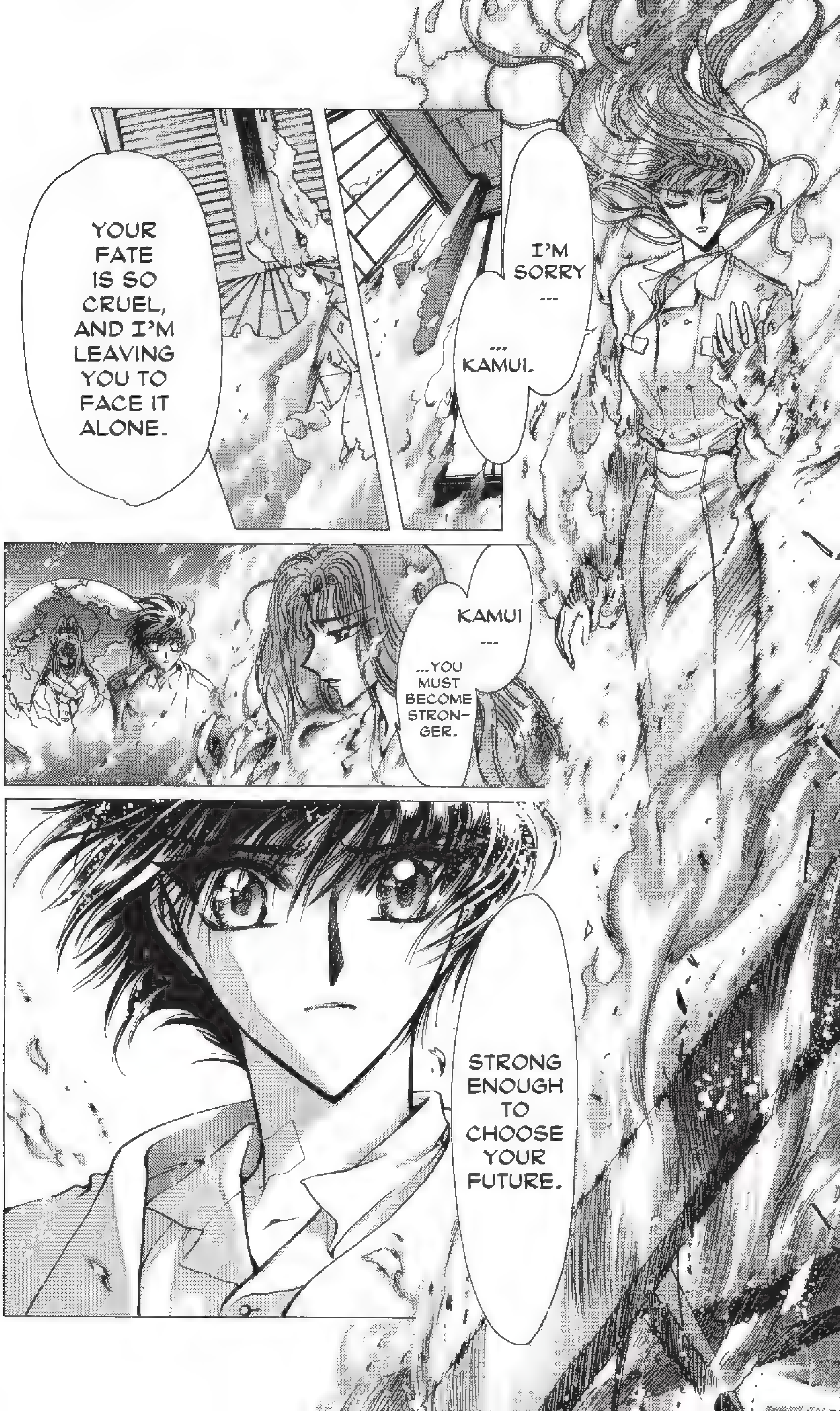

THE OTHER KAMUI WILL TAKE THAT SWORD.
BUT IN TIME ...
...ANOTHER SACRED SWORD WILL BE BORN.
CHAIR-MAN—
AH.
THAT'S RIGHT, YOU'RE RETIRED NOW.
KAMUI WILL NEED THE SACRED SWORD SOMEDAY. PLEASE GUARD IT UNTIL THEN.

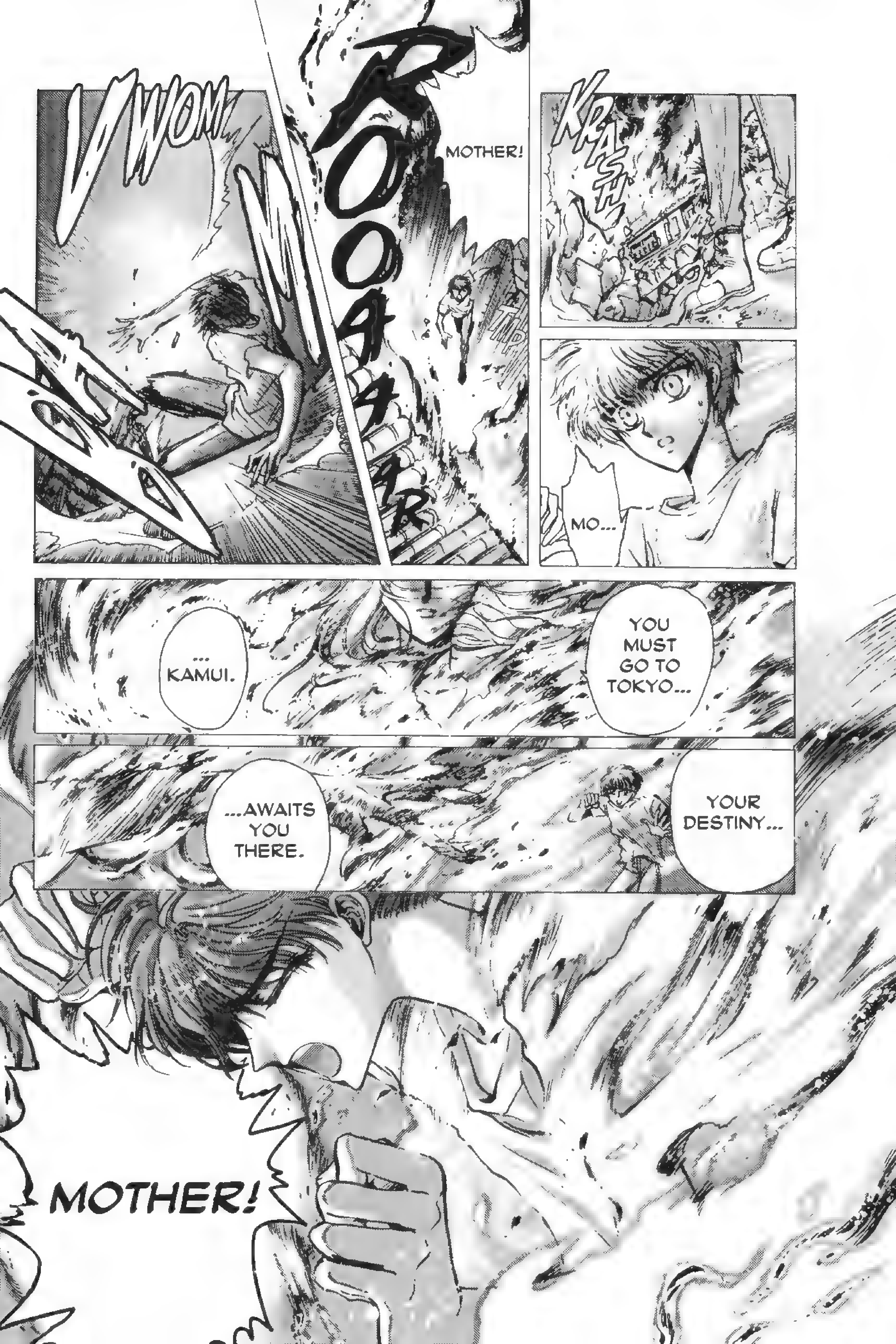

KLUNK
BEEP BEEP
WSSH
MOTHER!

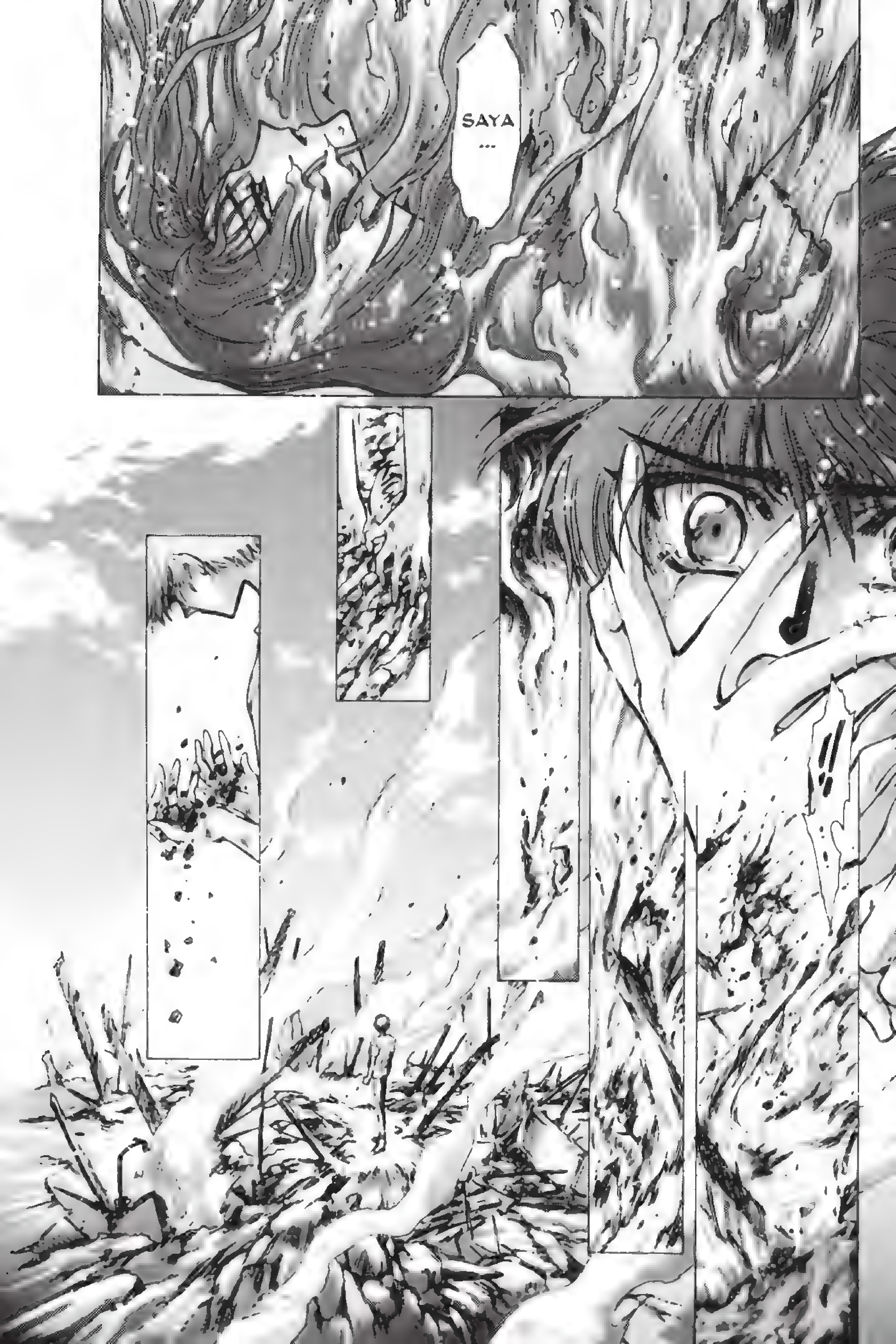

SO ...
IT SEEMS I DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH POWER AFTER ALL.
SHWM
WHAT'S HAPPENING?!
ROAR
WHERE DID THE FIRE COME FROM?!

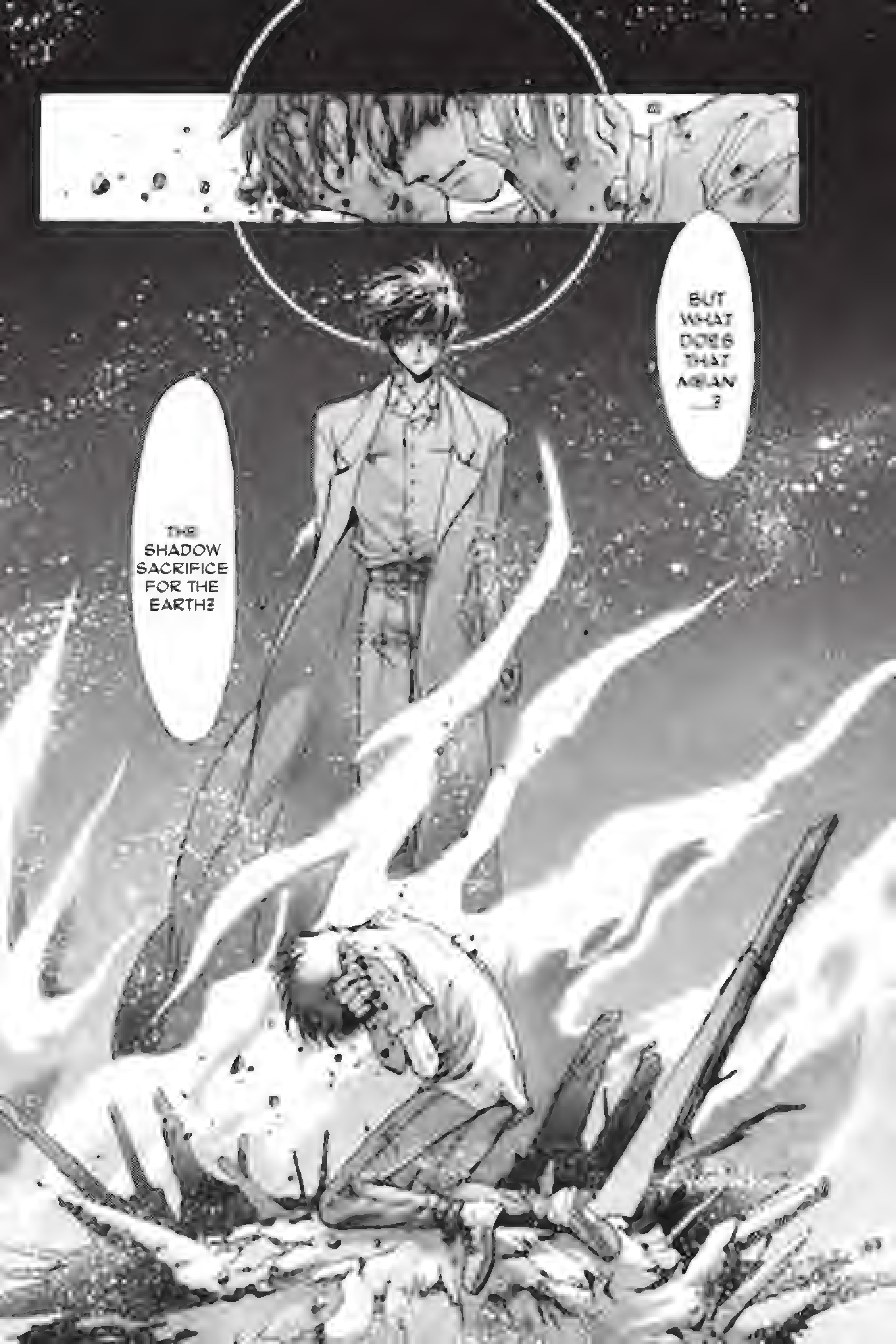

Your mother was heir to the Magami Clan.
Her family are called to be **Shadow Sacrifices.**
That is how she died.
When they are protecting someone, the Magami bear the brunt of the misfortunes that befall that person.
BUT WHAT DID SHE SACRIFICE HERSELF FOR?!

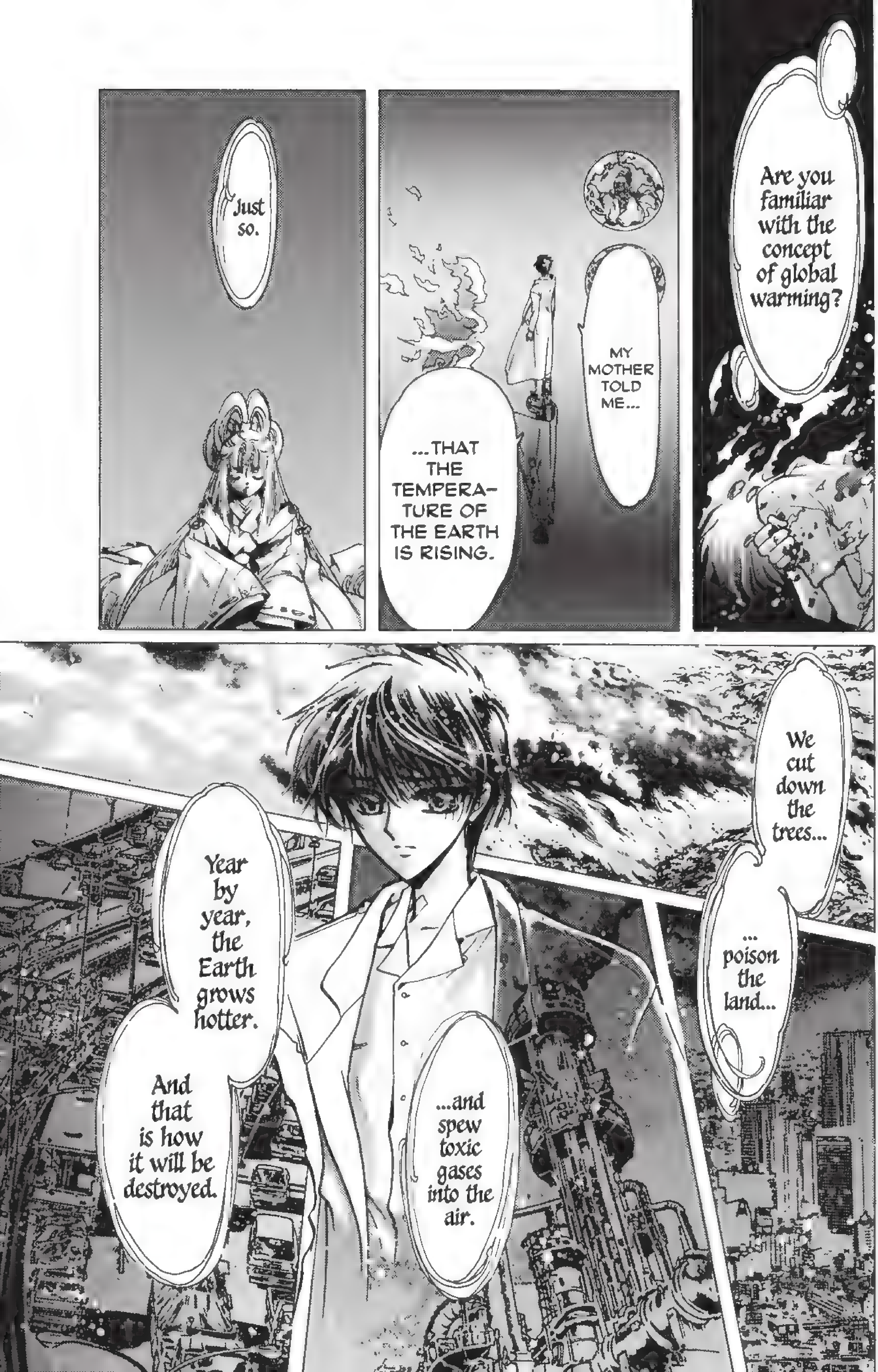

The Earth itself.

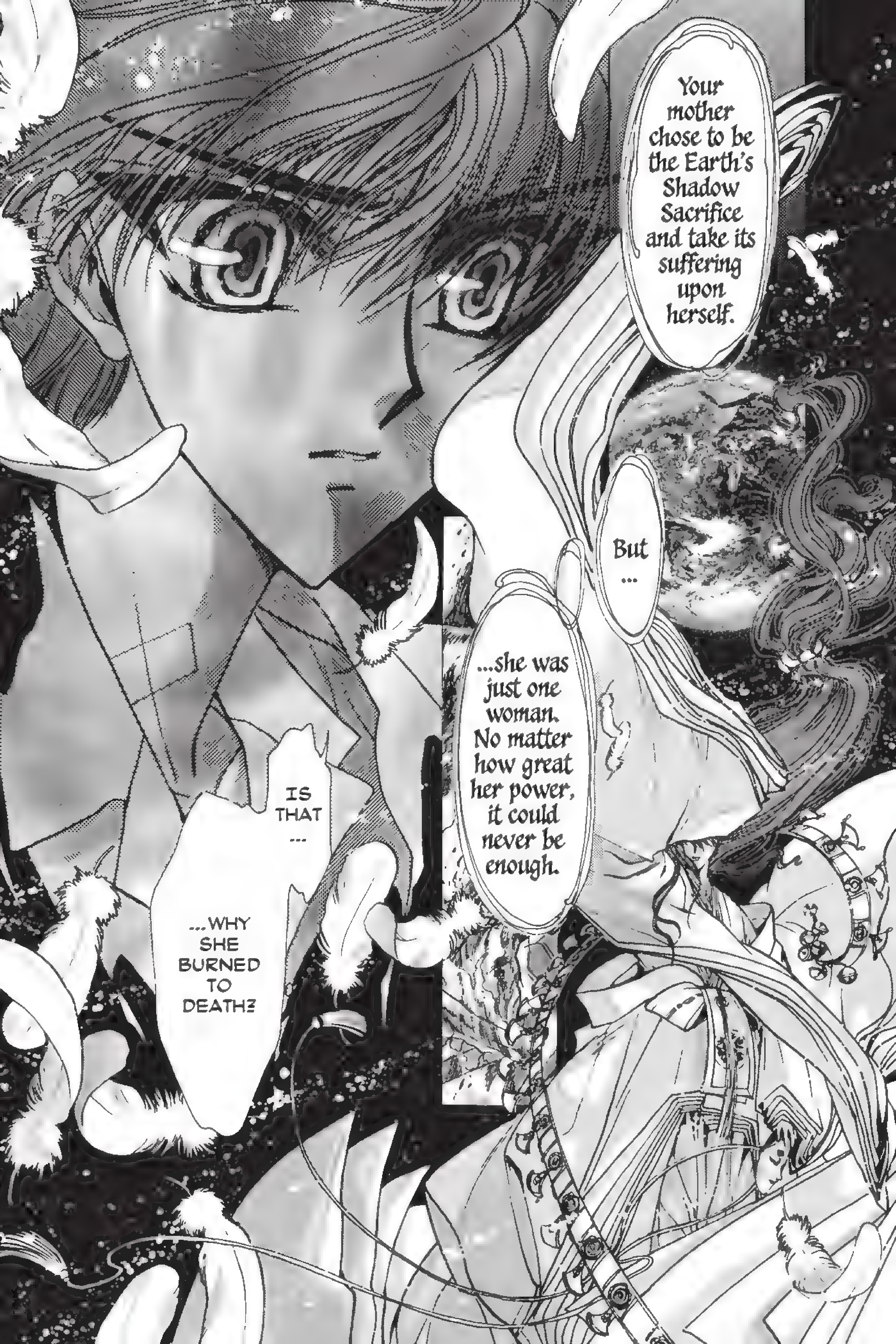

I'M SORRY ---
--- KAMUI.
YOUR FATE IS SO CRUEL, AND I'M LEAVING YOU TO FACE IT ALONE.
KAMUI ---
...YOU MUST BECOME STRONGER.
STRONG ENOUGH TO CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE.

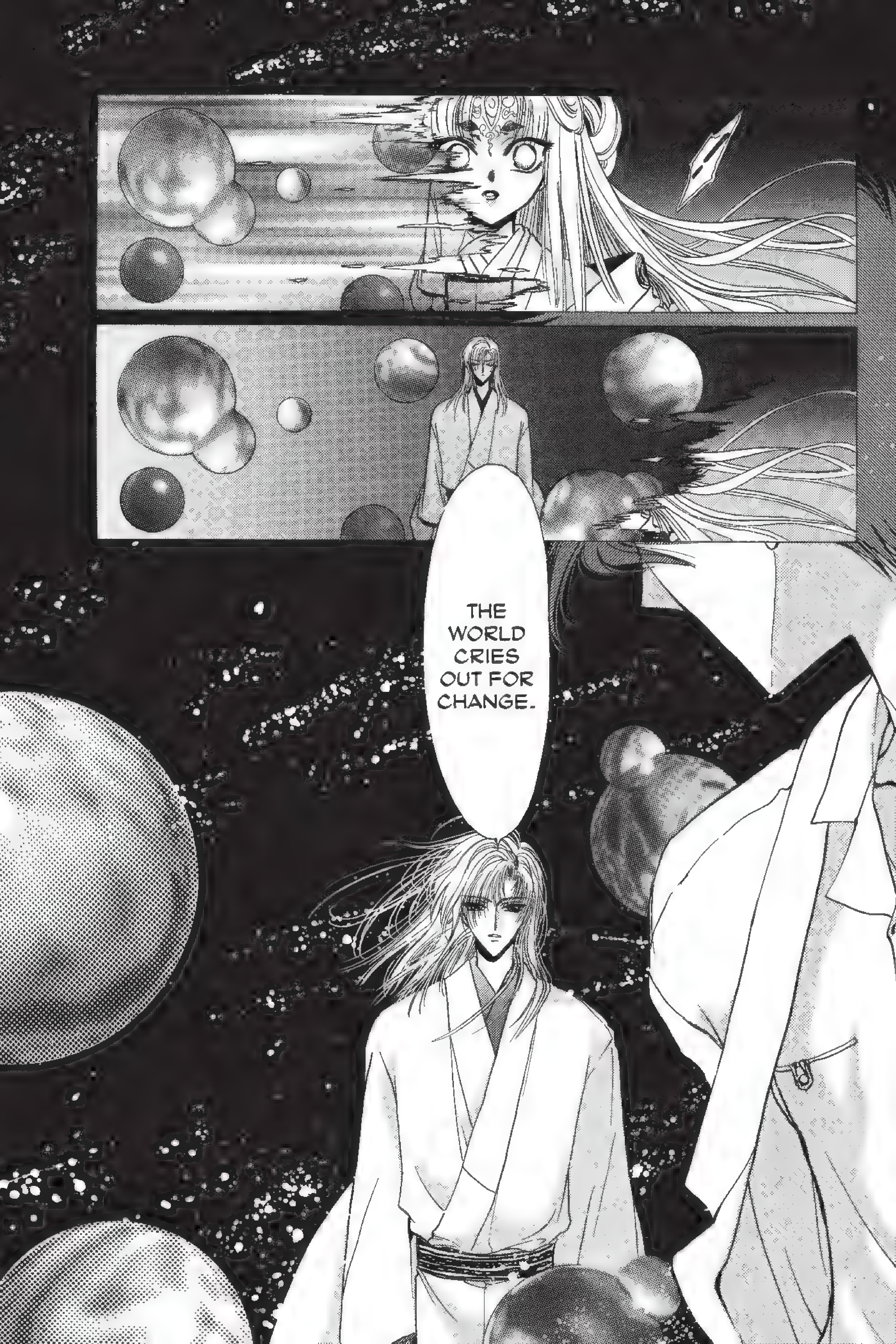

VWOM
ROOOAR
MOTHER!
THP
KRASH
MO...
...KAMUI.
YOU MUST GO TO TOKYO...
YOUR DESTINY...
...AWAITS YOU THERE.
MOTHER!

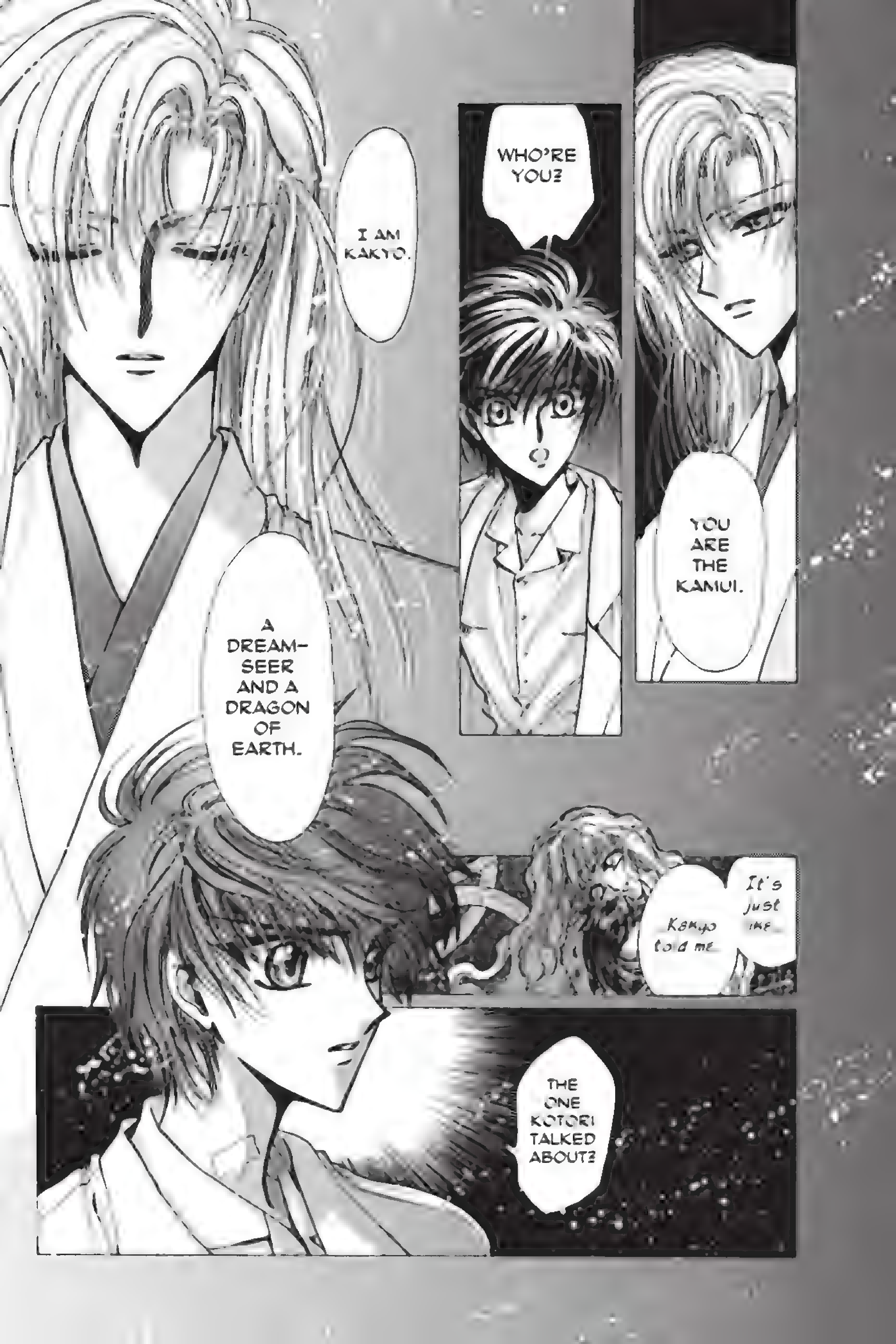

SAYA ...

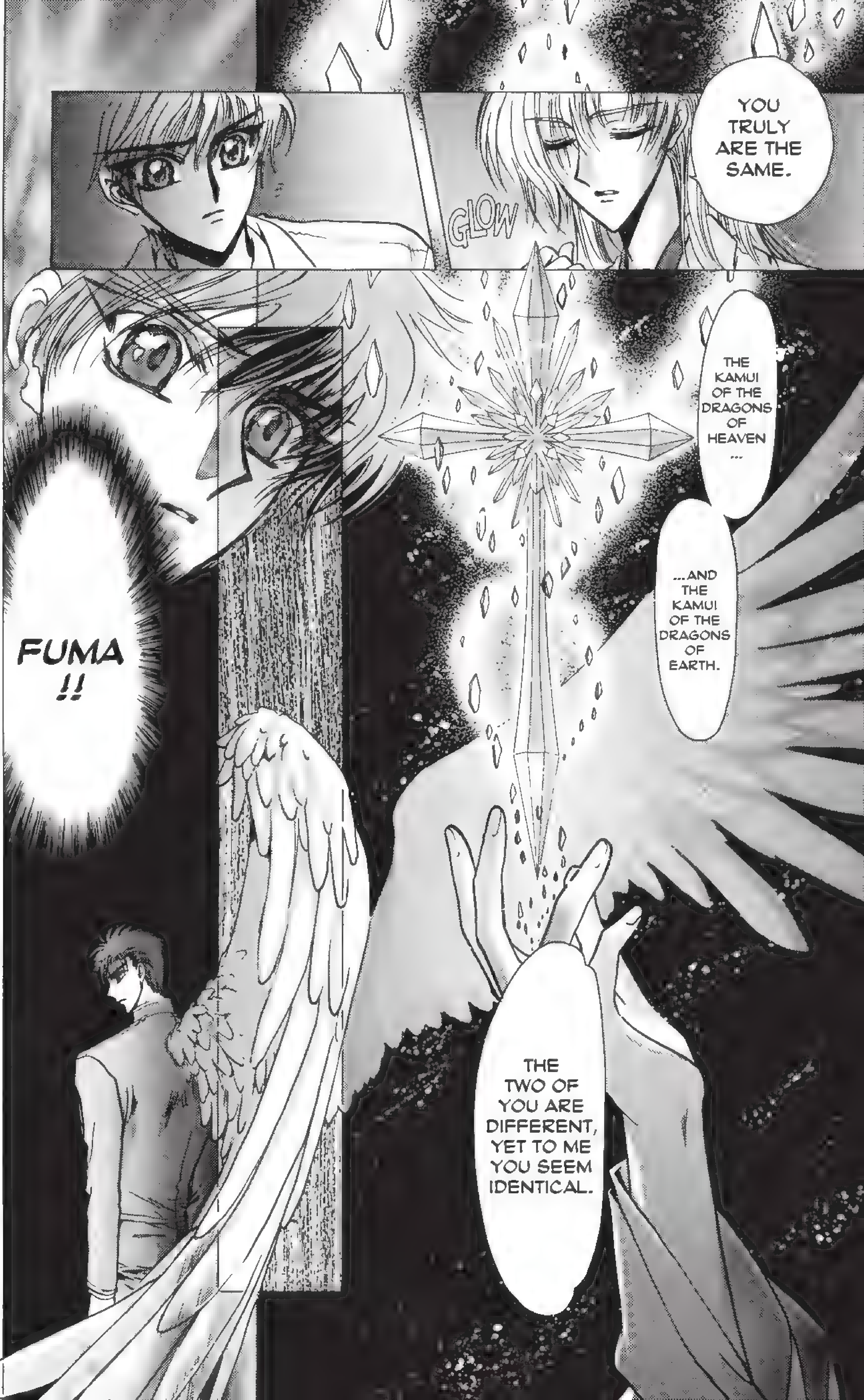

BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN ...?
THE SHADOW SACRIFICE FOR THE EARTH?

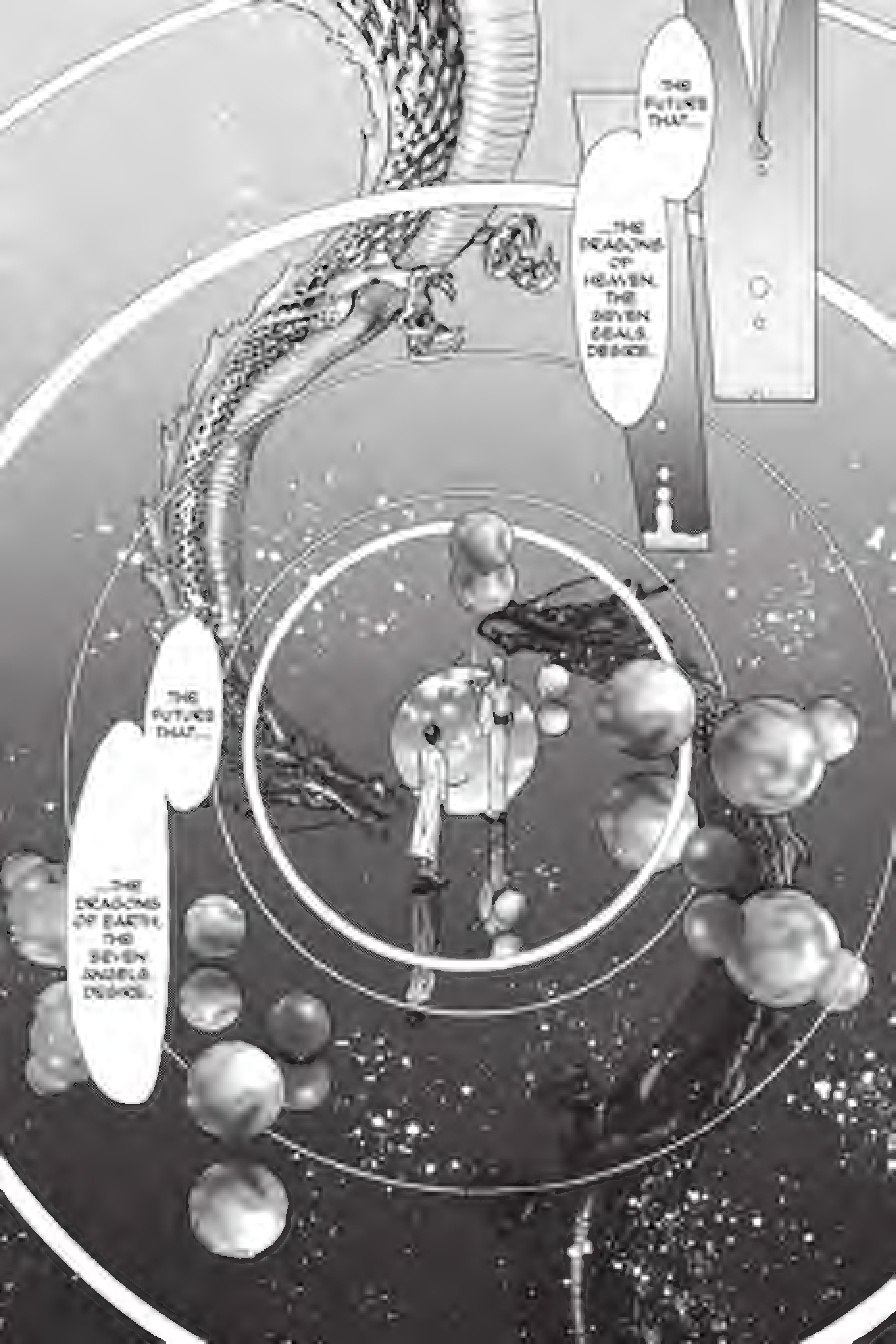

Are you familiar with the concept of global warming?
MY MOTHER TOLD ME...
...THAT THE TEMPERATURE OF THE EARTH IS RISING.
Just so.
We cut down the trees...
...poison the land...
...and spew toxic gases into the air.
Year by year, the Earth grows hotter.
And that is how it will be destroyed.

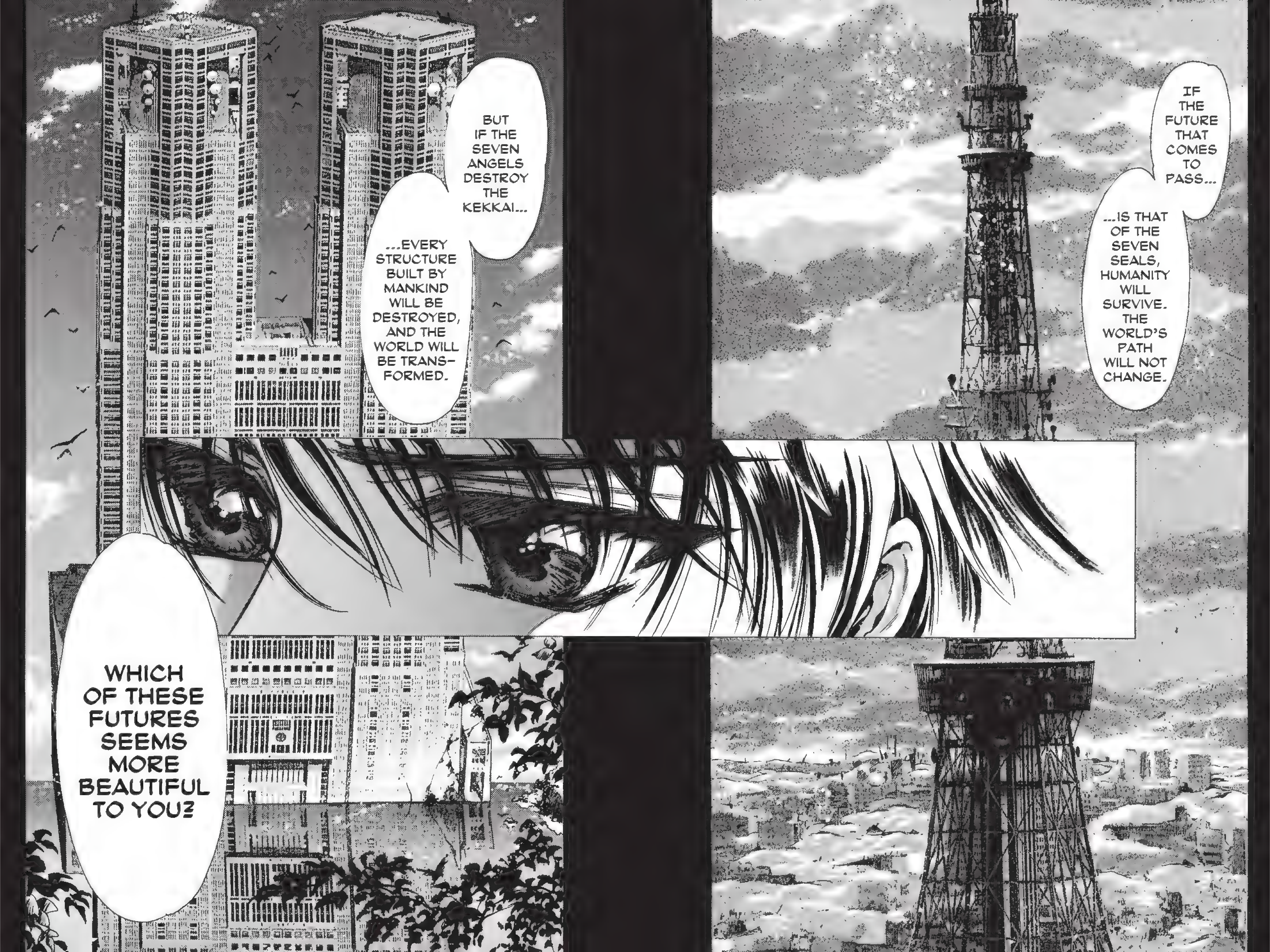

Your mother chose to be the Earth's Shadow Sacrifice and take its suffering upon herself.
But...
...she was just one woman. No matter how great her power, it could never be enough.
IS THAT...
...WHY SHE BURNED TO DEATH?

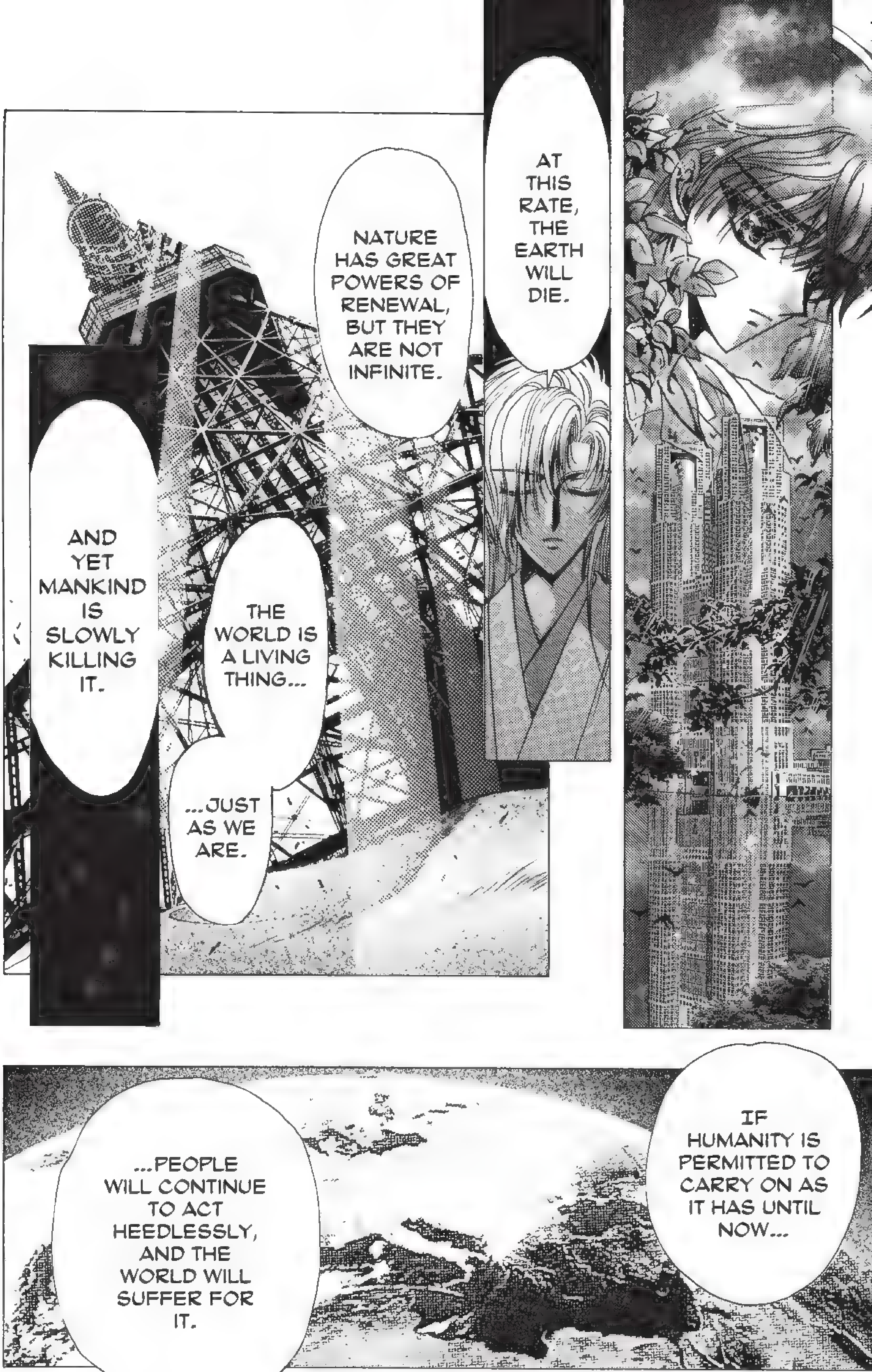

THE WORLD CRIES OUT FOR CHANGE.

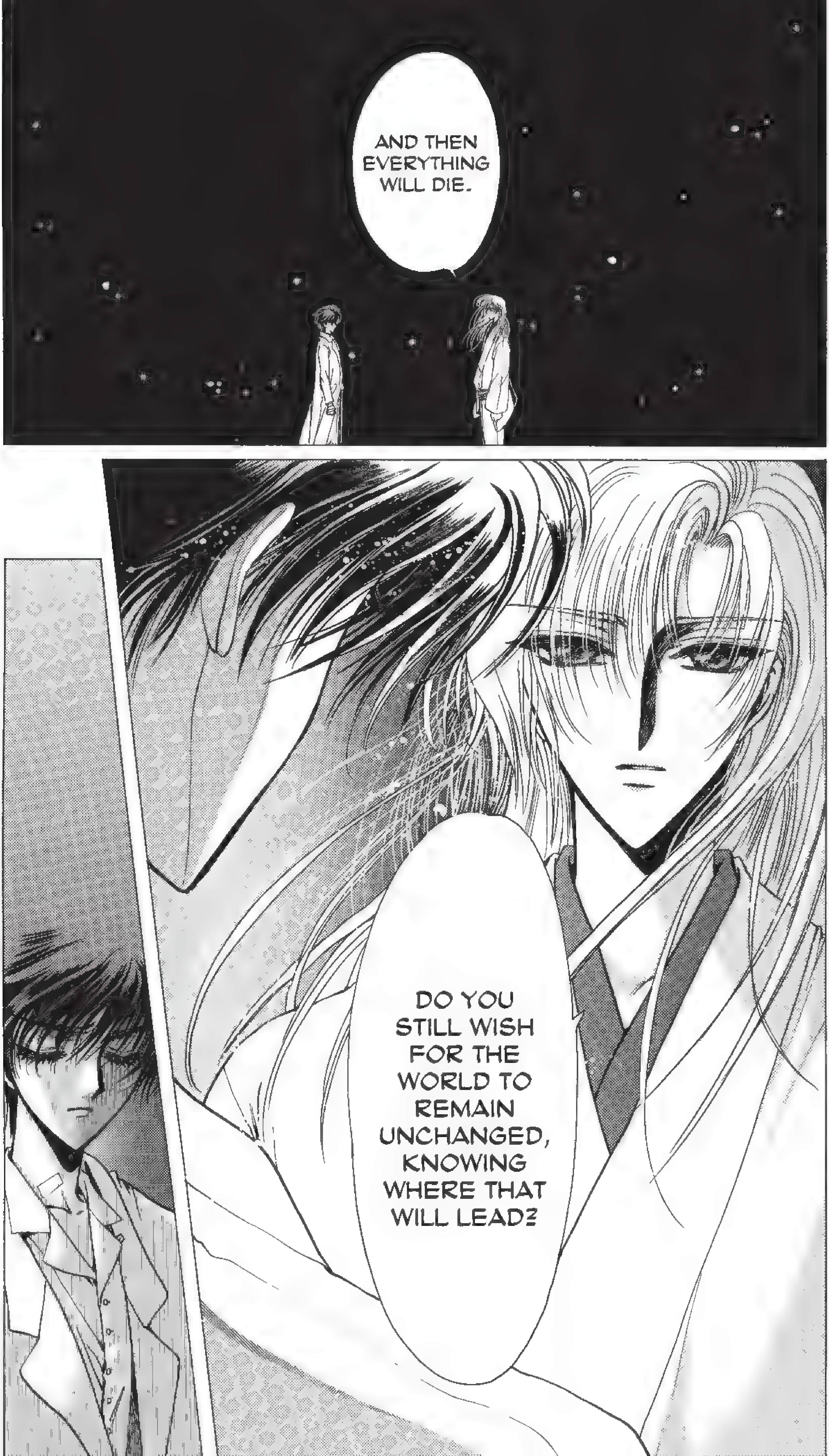

YOU ARE THE KAMUI.
WHO'RE YOU?
I AM KAKYO.
A DREAM-SEER AND A DRAGON OF EARTH.
It's just like...
...Kakyo told me.
THE ONE KOTORI TALKED ABOUT?

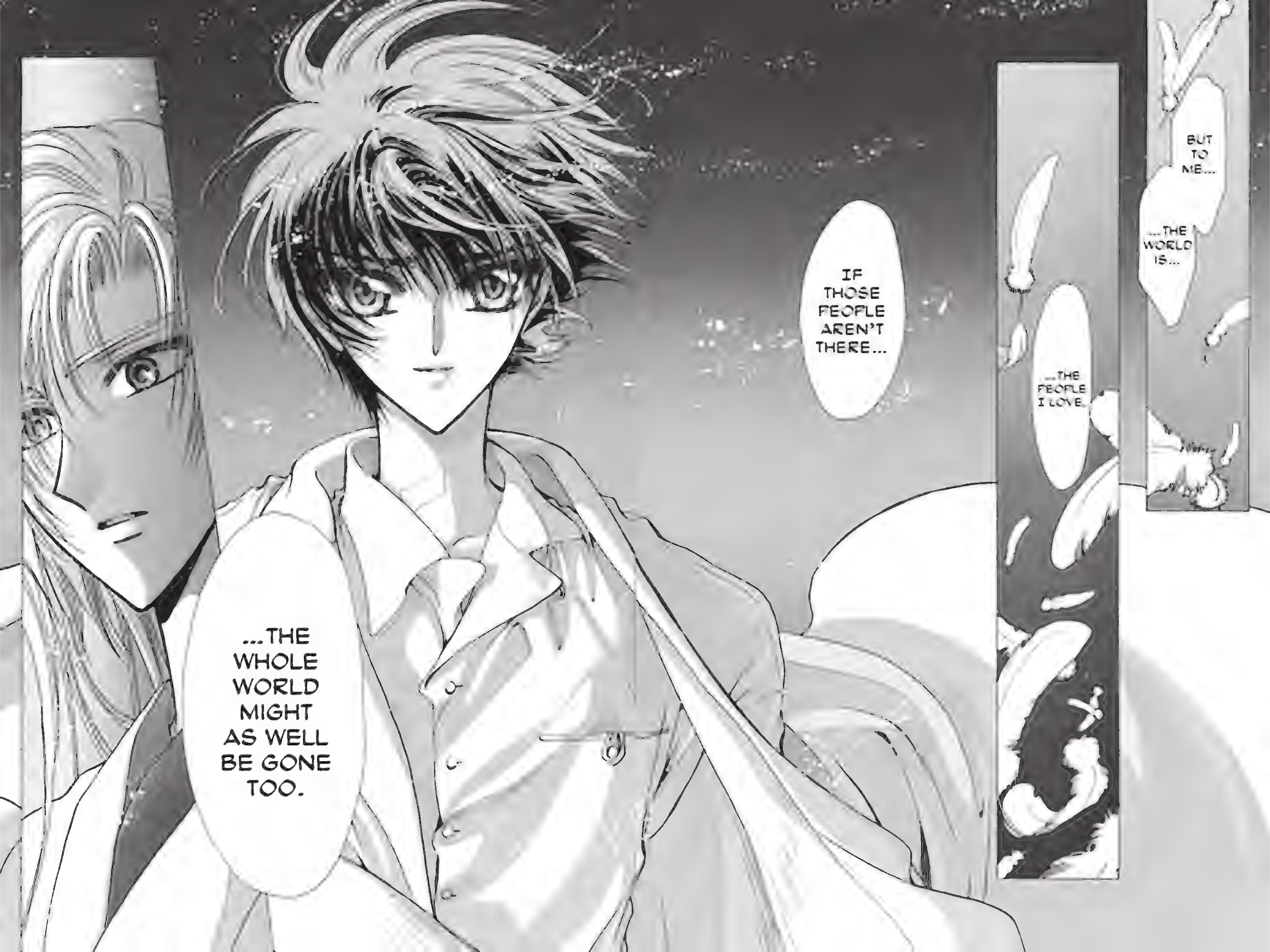

YOU TRULY ARE THE SAME.
GLOW
THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN...
...AND THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
FUMA !!
THE TWO OF YOU ARE DIFFERENT, YET TO ME YOU SEEM IDENTICAL.

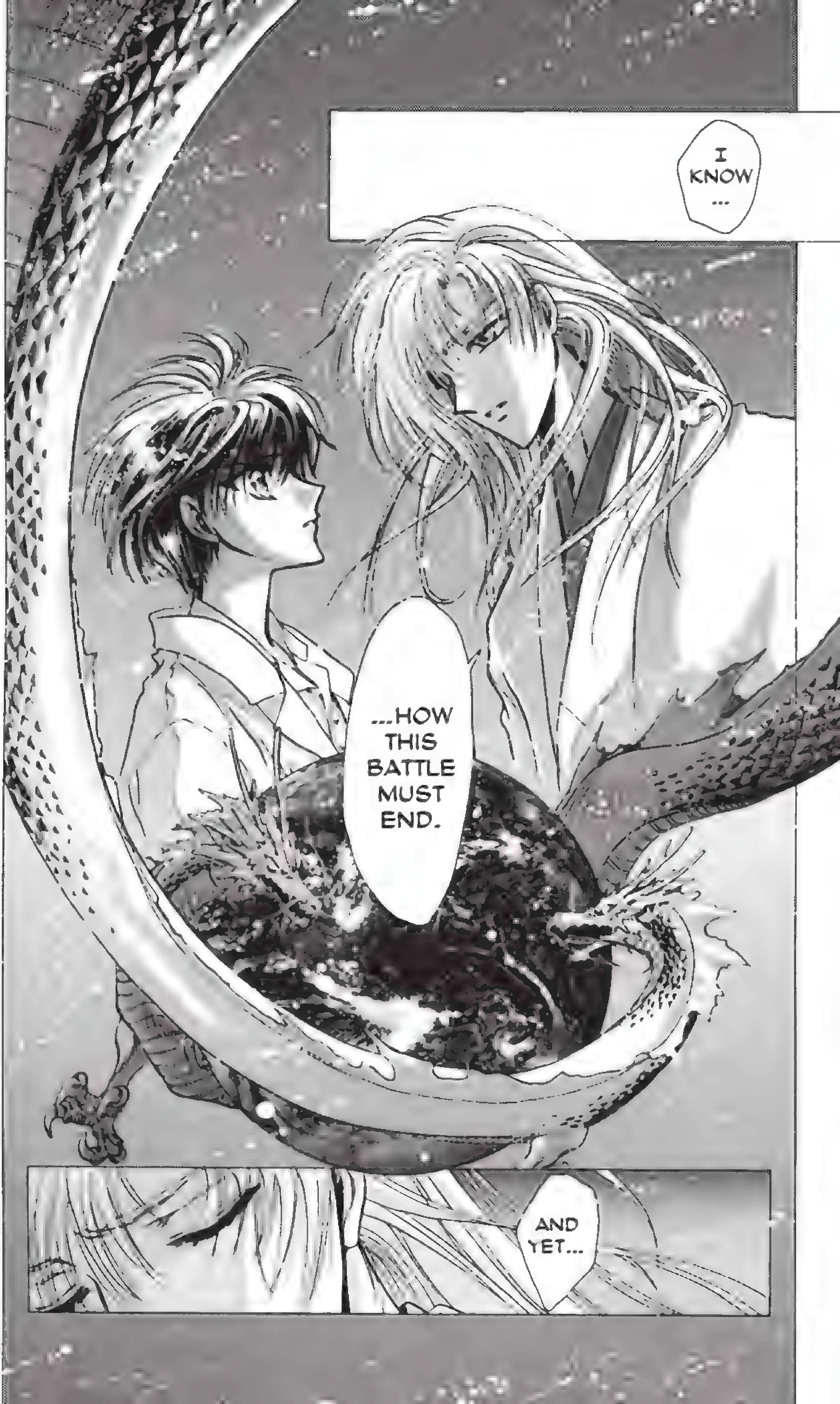

THE FUTURES THAT...
...THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN, THE SEVEN SEALS DESIRE.
THE FUTURES THAT...
...THE DRAGONS OF EARTH, THE SEVEN ANGELS DESIRE.

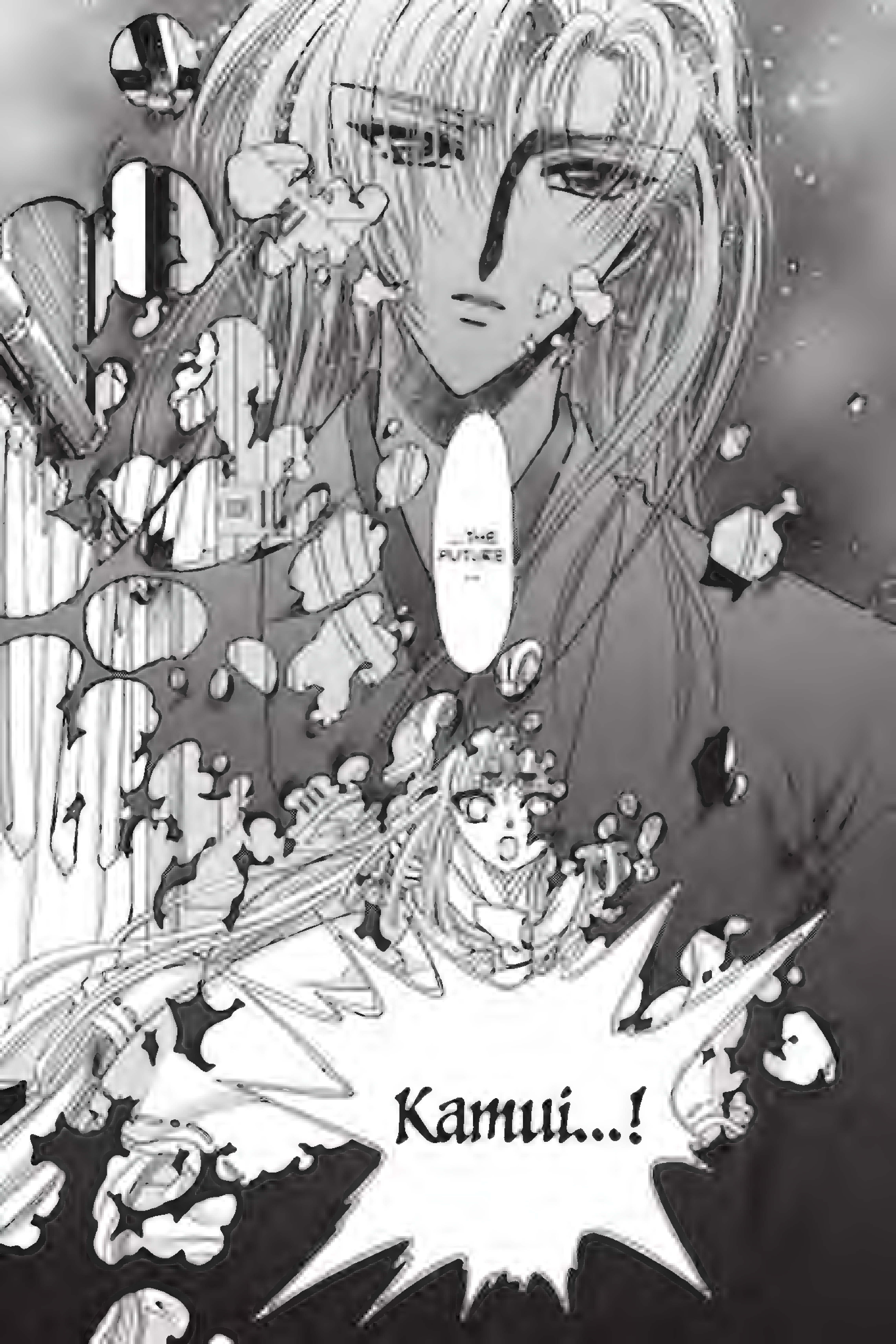

IF THE FUTURE THAT COMES TO PASS...
...IS THAT OF THE SEVEN SEALS, HUMANITY WILL SURVIVE. THE WORLD'S PATH WILL NOT CHANGE.
BUT IF THE SEVEN ANGELS DESTROY THE KEKKAI...
...EVERY STRUCTURE BUILT BY MANKIND WILL BE DESTROYED, AND THE WORLD WILL BE TRANSFORMED.
WHICH OF THESE FUTURES SEEMS MORE BEAUTIFUL TO YOU?


AT THIS RATE, THE EARTH WILL DIE.
NATURE HAS GREAT POWERS OF RENEWAL, BUT THEY ARE NOT INFINITE.
THE WORLD IS A LIVING THING...
...JUST AS WE ARE.
AND YET MANKIND IS SLOWLY KILLING IT.
IF HUMANITY IS PERMITTED TO CARRY ON AS IT HAS UNTIL NOW...
...PEOPLE WILL CONTINUE TO ACT HEEDLESSLY, AND THE WORLD WILL SUFFER FOR IT.

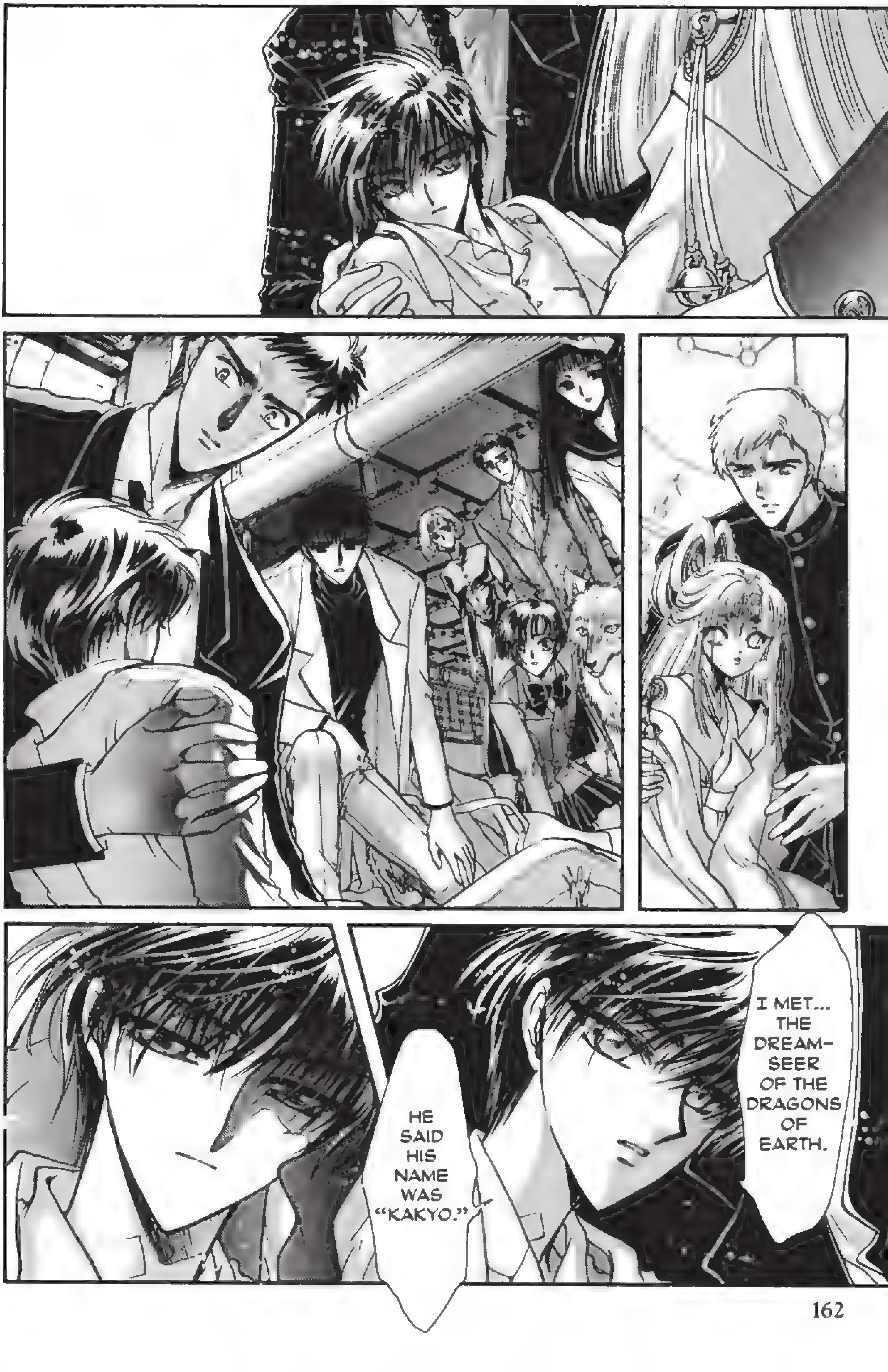

AND THEN EVERYTHING WILL DIE.
DO YOU STILL WISH FOR THE WORLD TO REMAIN UNCHANGED, KNOWING WHERE THAT WILL LEAD?

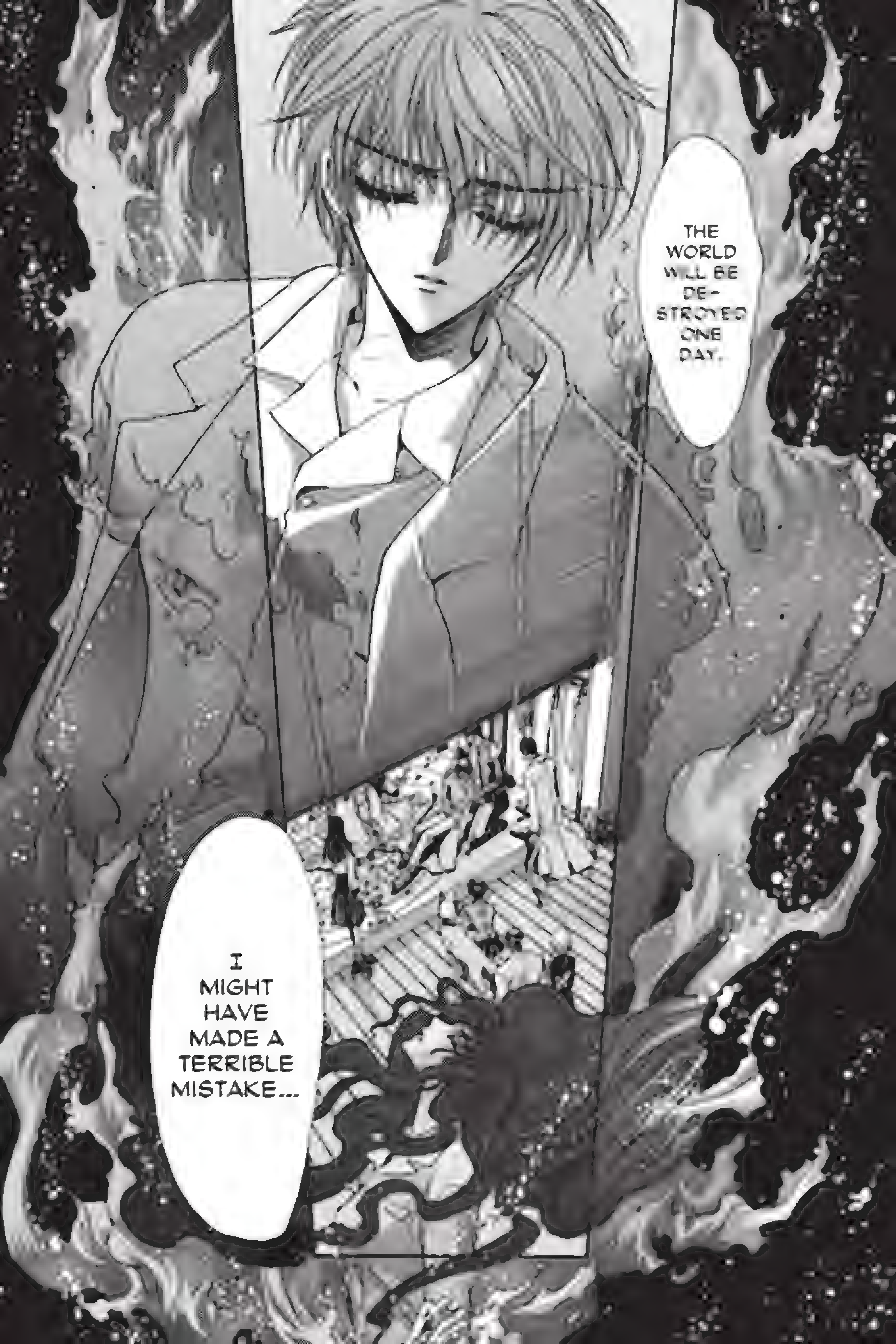

BUT TO ME...
...THE WORLD IS...
...THE PEOPLE I LOVE.
IF THOSE PEOPLE AREN'T THERE...
...THE WHOLE WORLD MIGHT AS WELL BE GONE TOO.

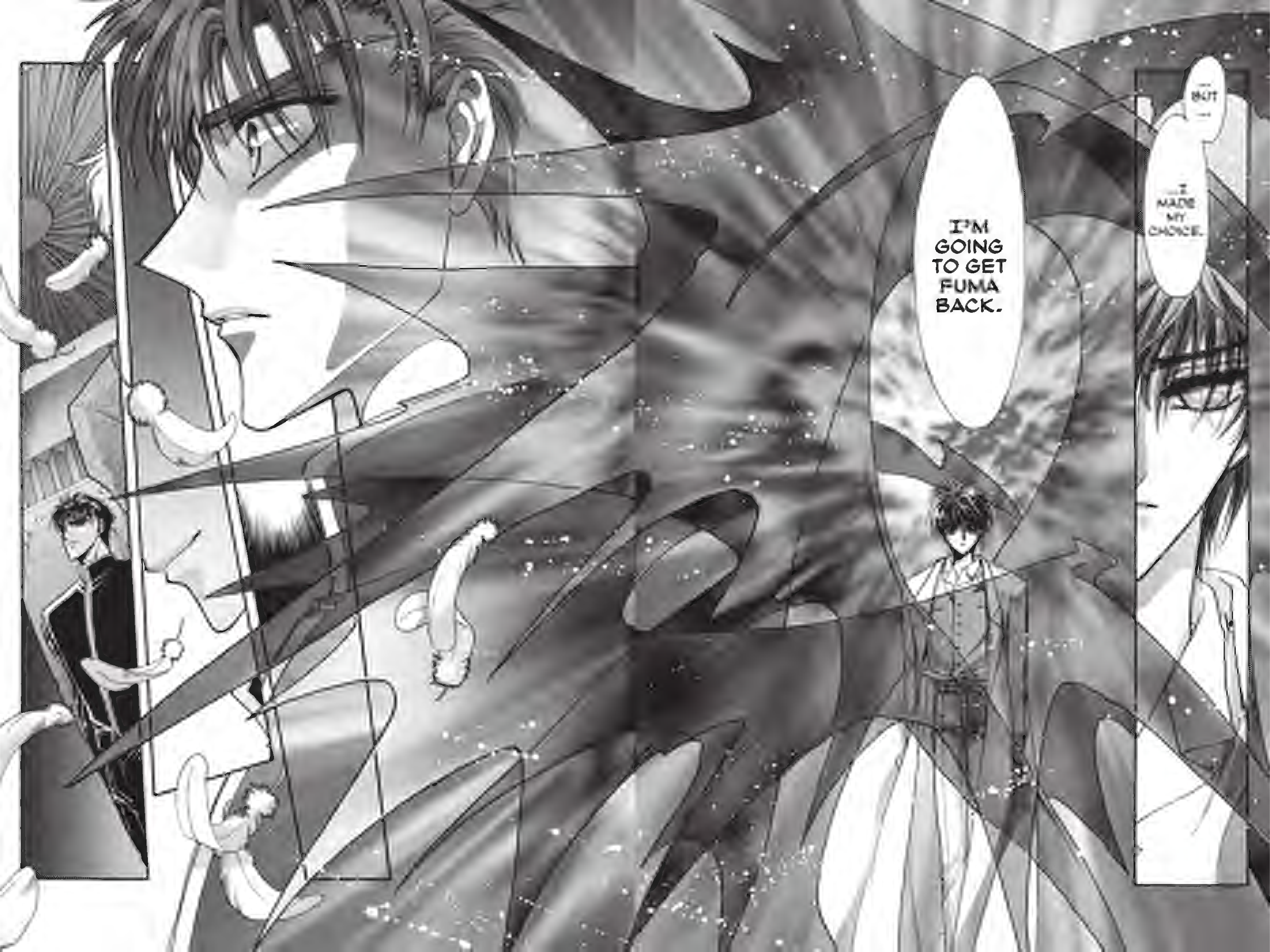

I KNOW ...
...HOW THIS BATTLE MUST END.
AND YET...

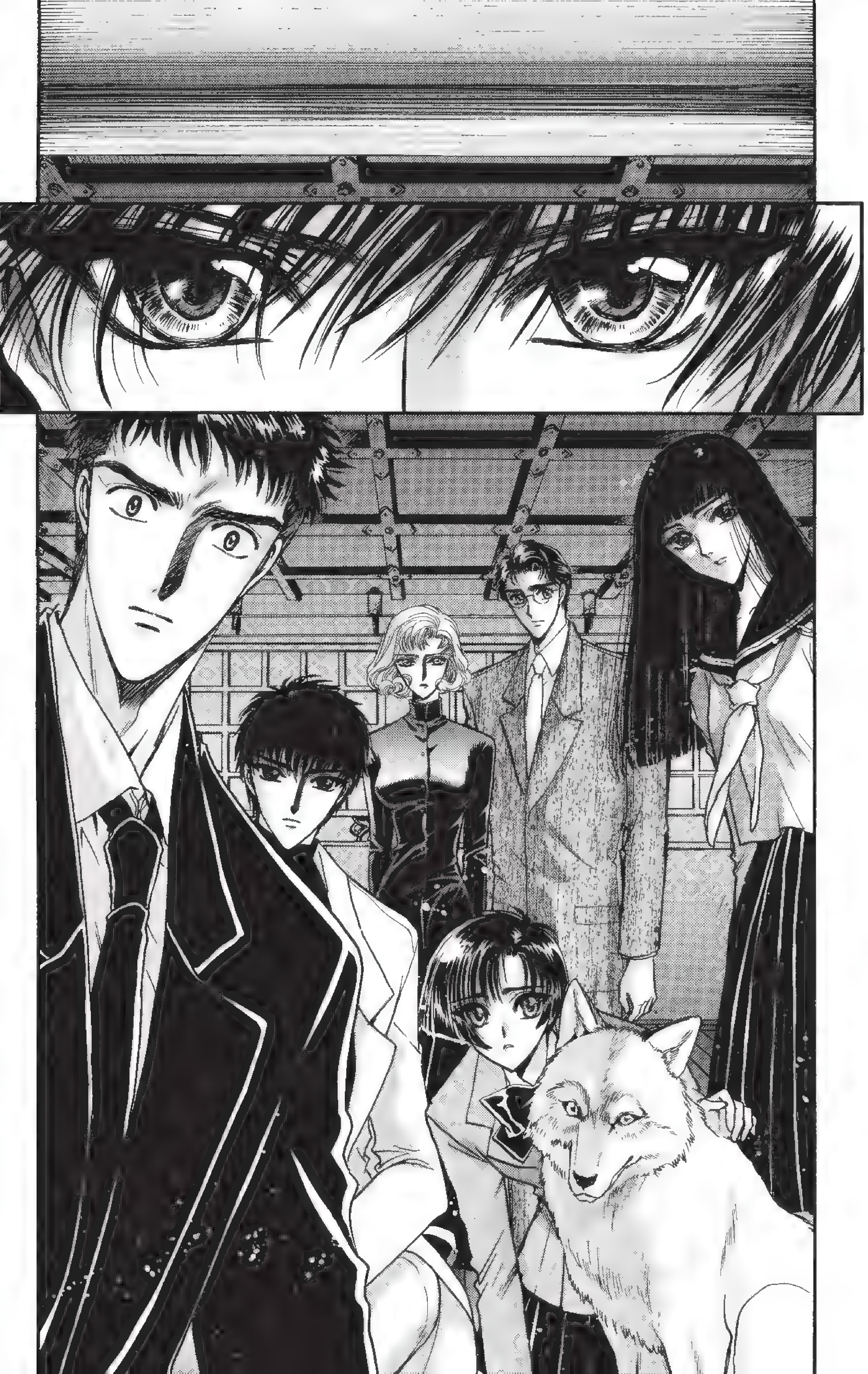


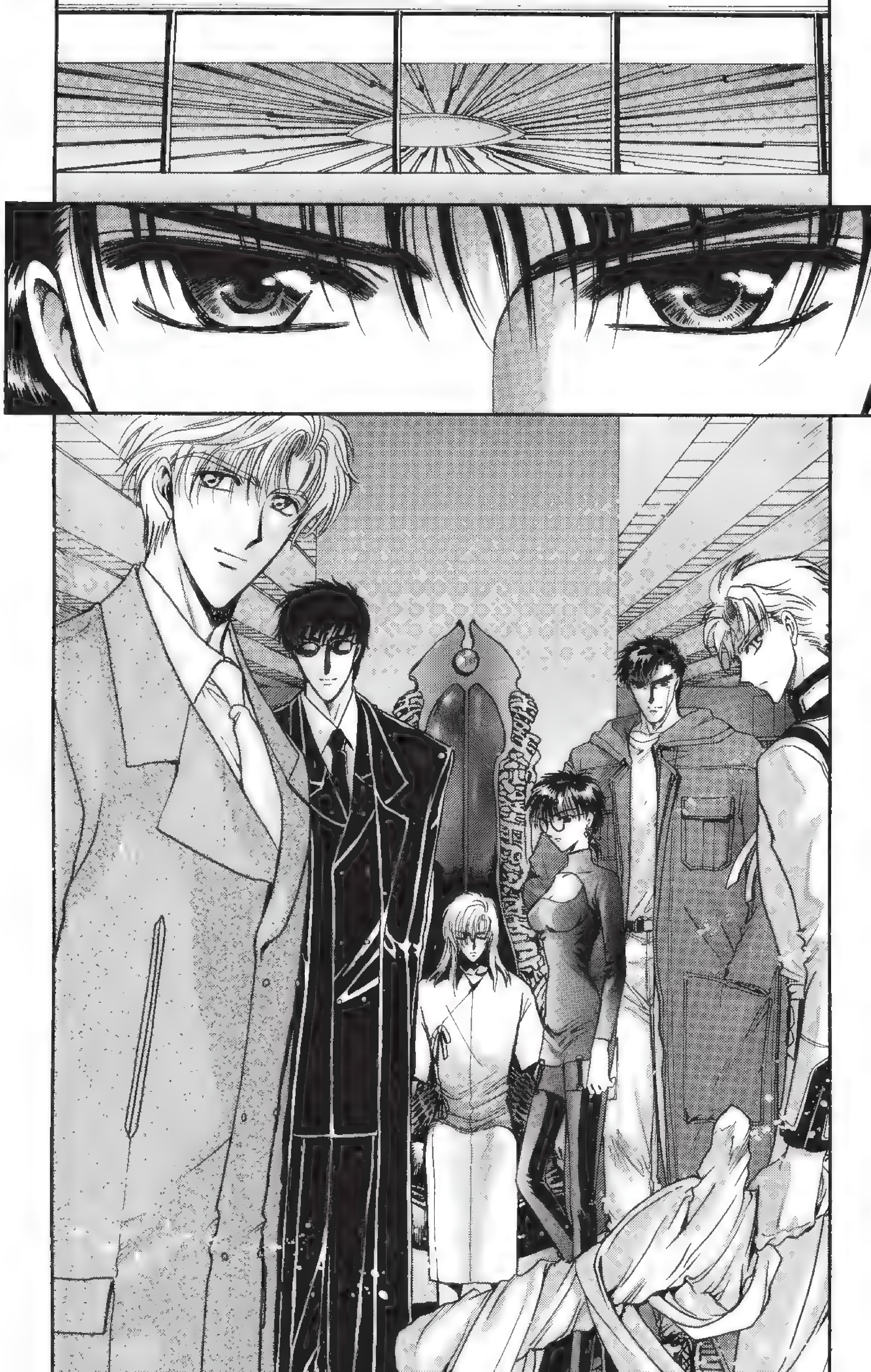
...THE FUTURE ...
Kamui...!


I MET... THE DREAM-SEER OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH.
HE SAID HIS NAME WAS "KAKYO."


THE WORLD WILL BE DESTROYED ONE DAY.
I MIGHT HAVE MADE A TERRIBLE MISTAKE...


...BUT...
...I MADE MY CHOICE.
I'M GOING TO GET FUMA BACK.





The Earth's final saga has begun.

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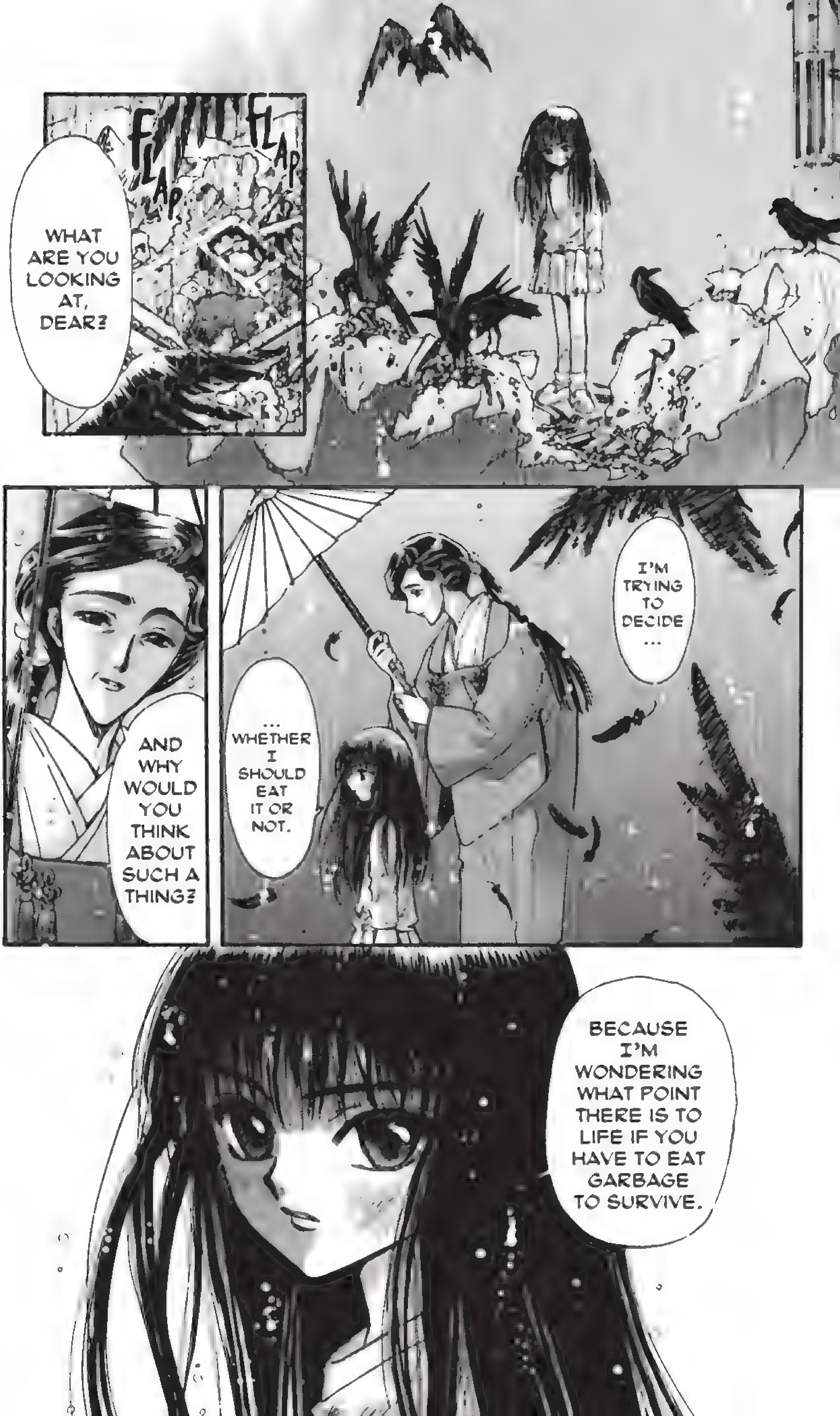
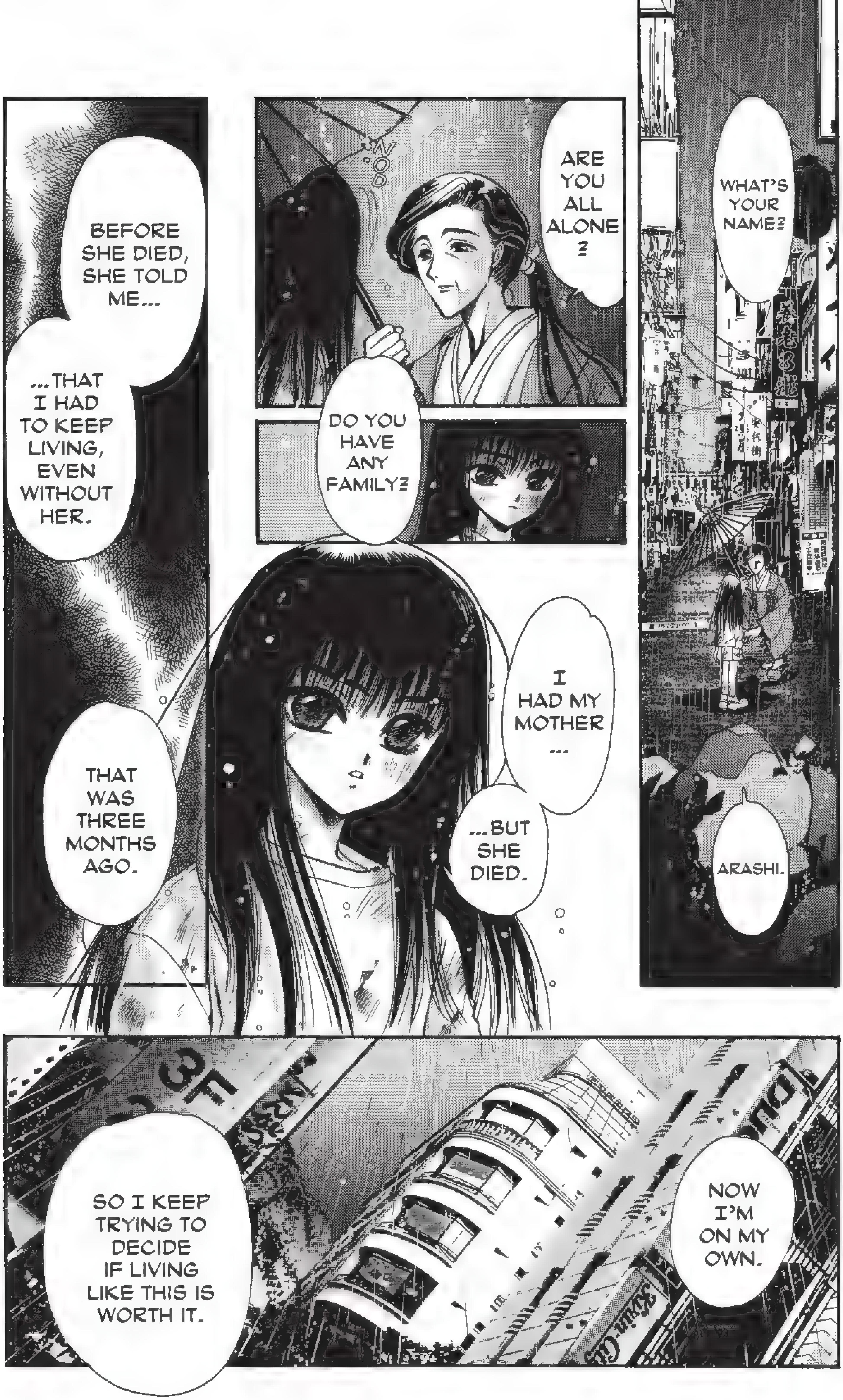
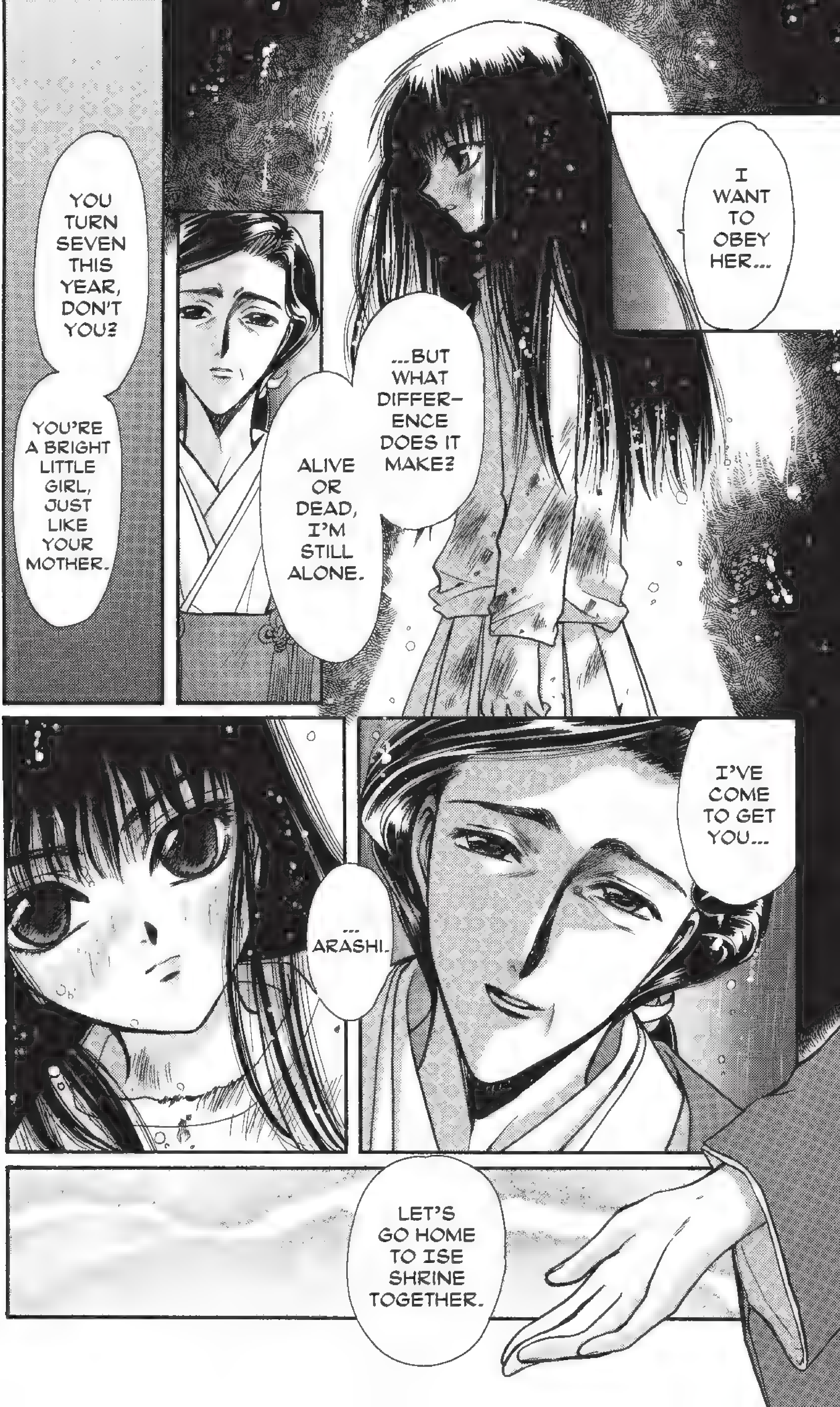
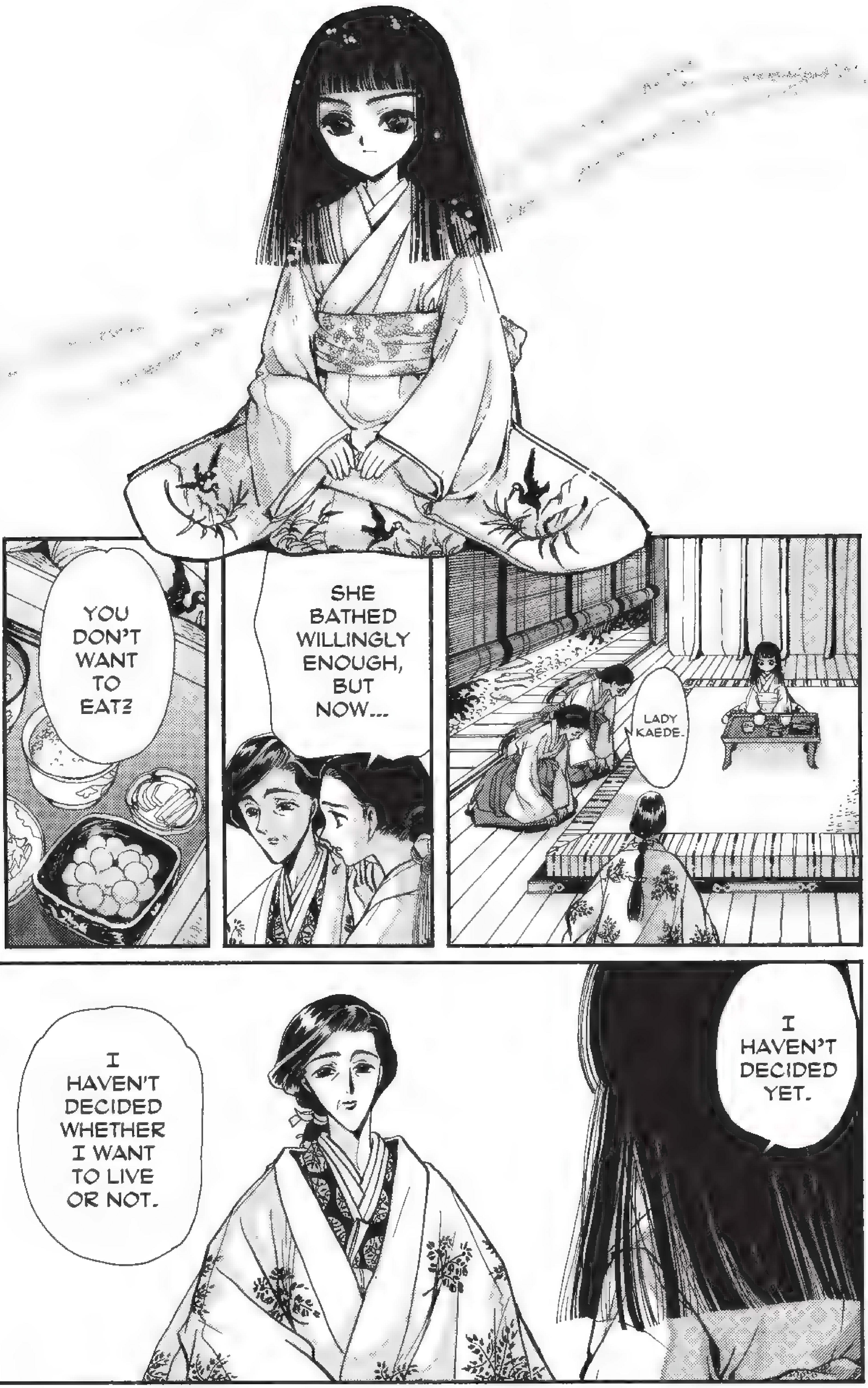
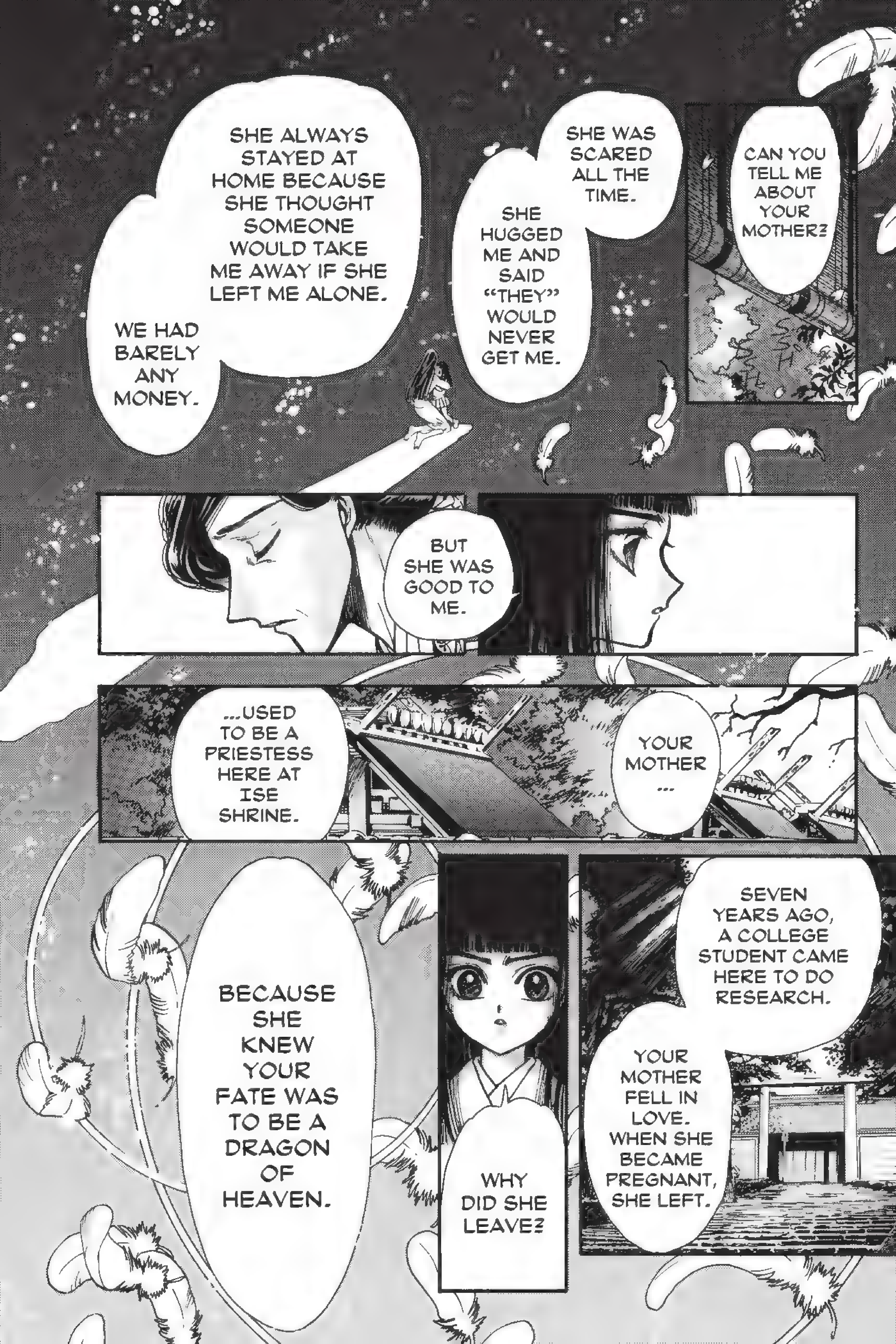
ARASHI KISHU

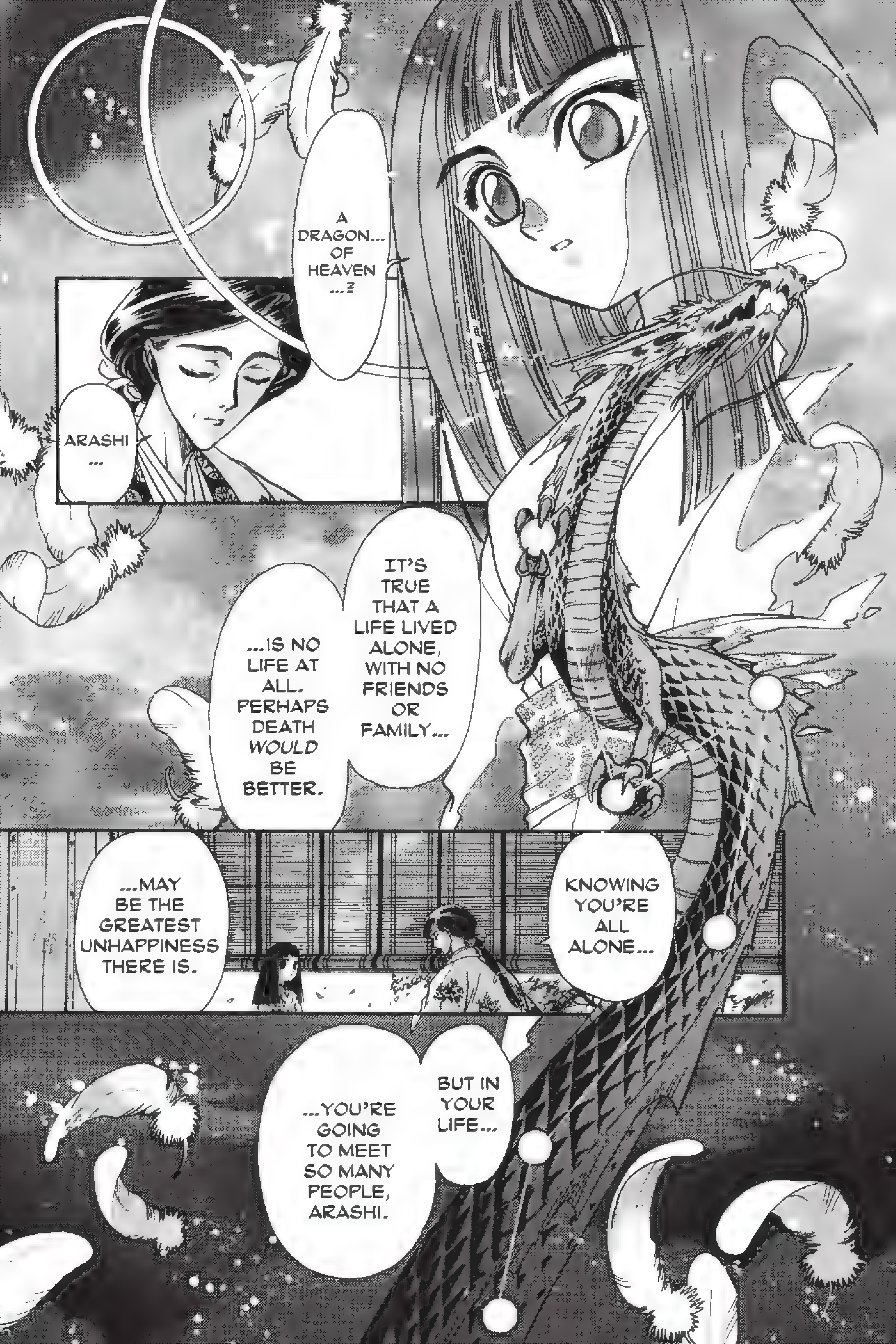

FLAP FLAP
WHAT ARE YOU LOOKING AT, DEAR?
I'M TRYING TO DECIDE ...
... WHETHER I SHOULD EAT IT OR NOT.
AND WHY WOULD YOU THINK ABOUT SUCH A THING?
BECAUSE I'M WONDERING WHAT POINT THERE IS TO LIFE IF YOU HAVE TO EAT GARBAGE TO SURVIVE.

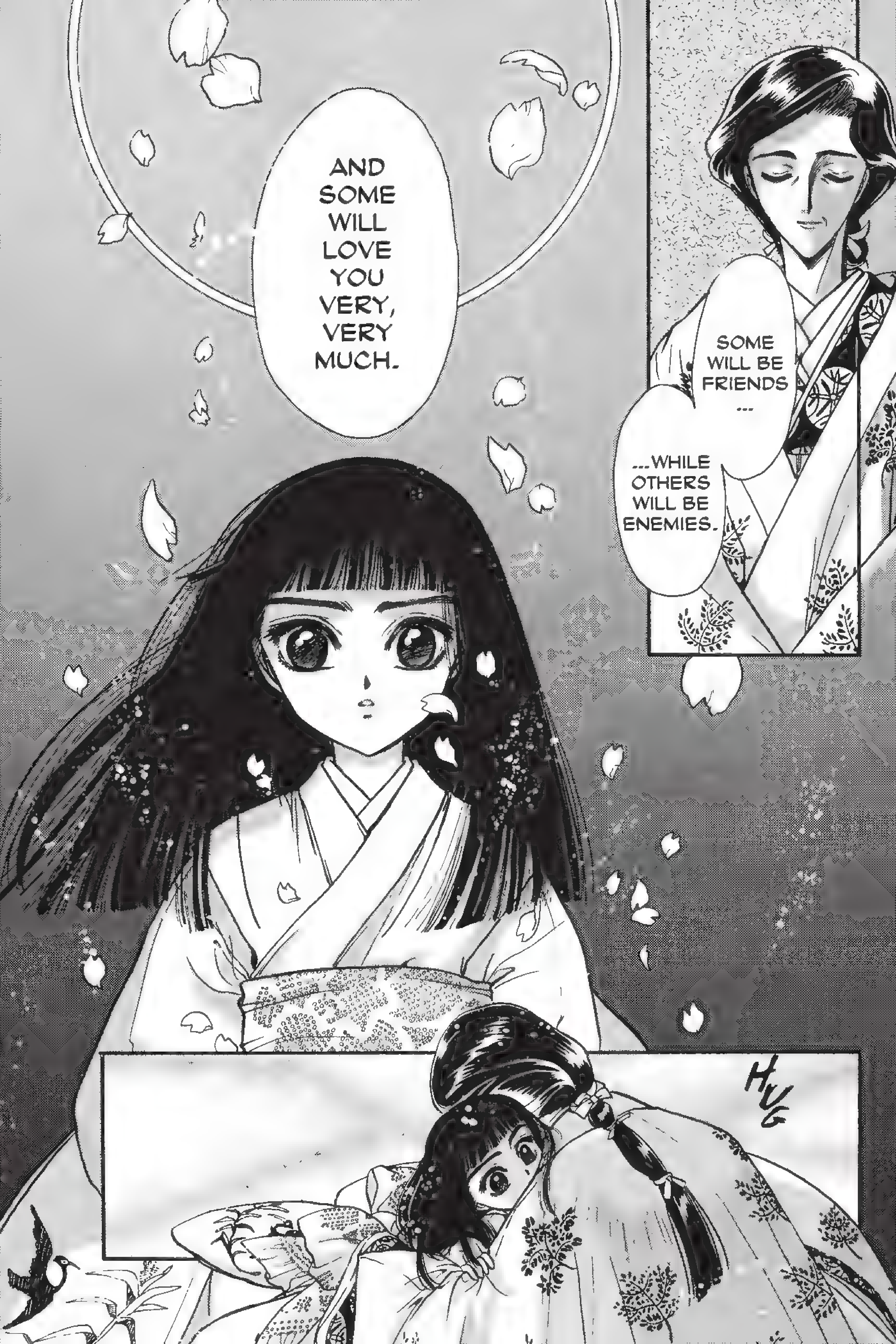

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
ARASHI.
NOD
ARE YOU ALL ALONE?
DO YOU HAVE ANY FAMILY?
I HAD MY MOTHER...
...BUT SHE DIED.
THAT WAS THREE MONTHS AGO.
BEFORE SHE DIED, SHE TOLD ME...
...THAT I HAD TO KEEP LIVING, EVEN WITHOUT HER.
3F
NOW I'M ON MY OWN.
SO I KEEP TRYING TO DECIDE IF LIVING LIKE THIS IS WORTH IT.

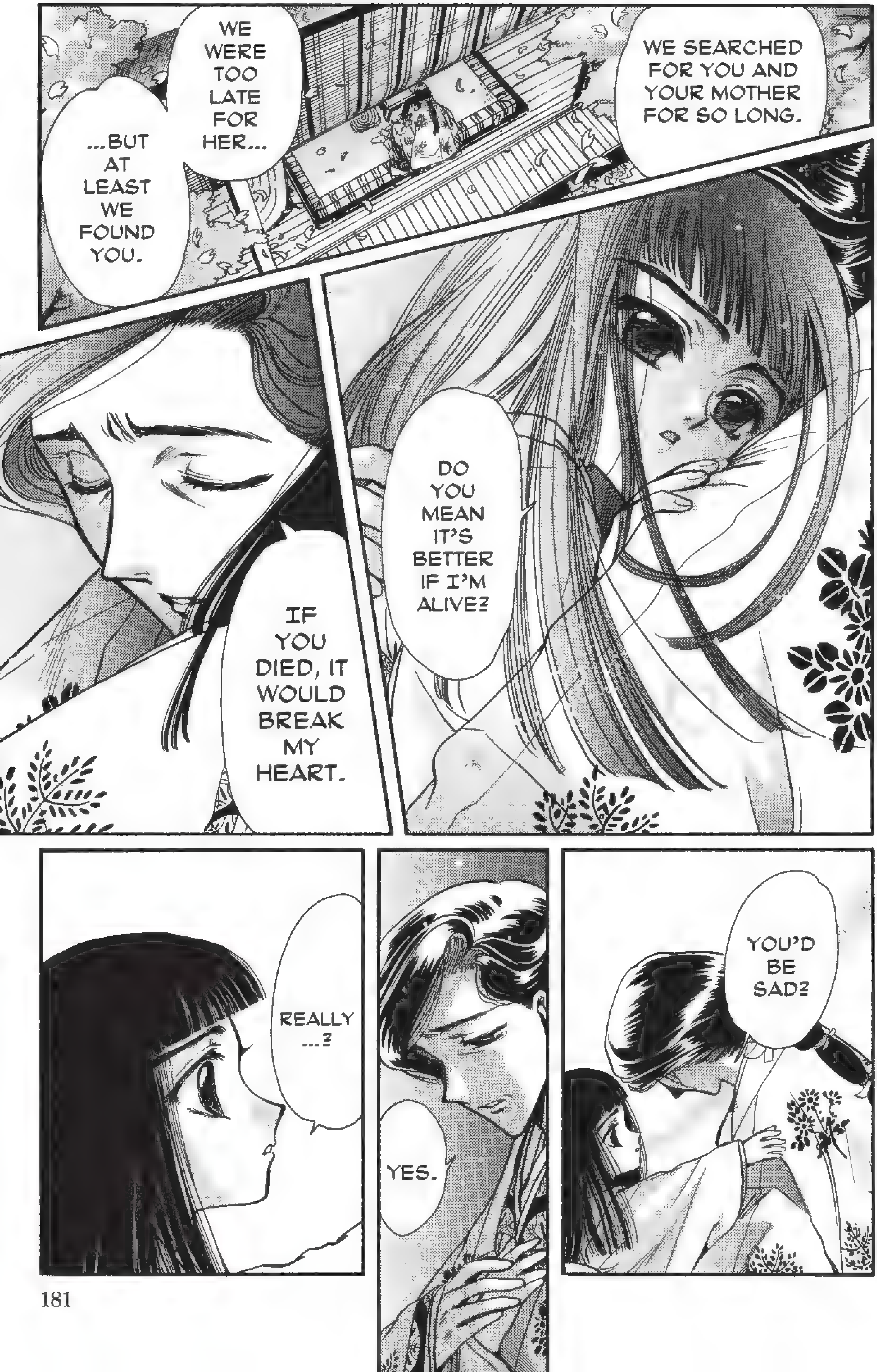

I WANT TO OBEY HER...
...BUT WHAT DIFFERENCE DOES IT MAKE?
ALIVE OR DEAD, I'M STILL ALONE.
YOU TURN SEVEN THIS YEAR, DON'T YOU?
YOU'RE A BRIGHT LITTLE GIRL, JUST LIKE YOUR MOTHER.
I'VE COME TO GET YOU...
...ARASHI.
LET'S GO HOME TO ISE SHRINE TOGETHER.

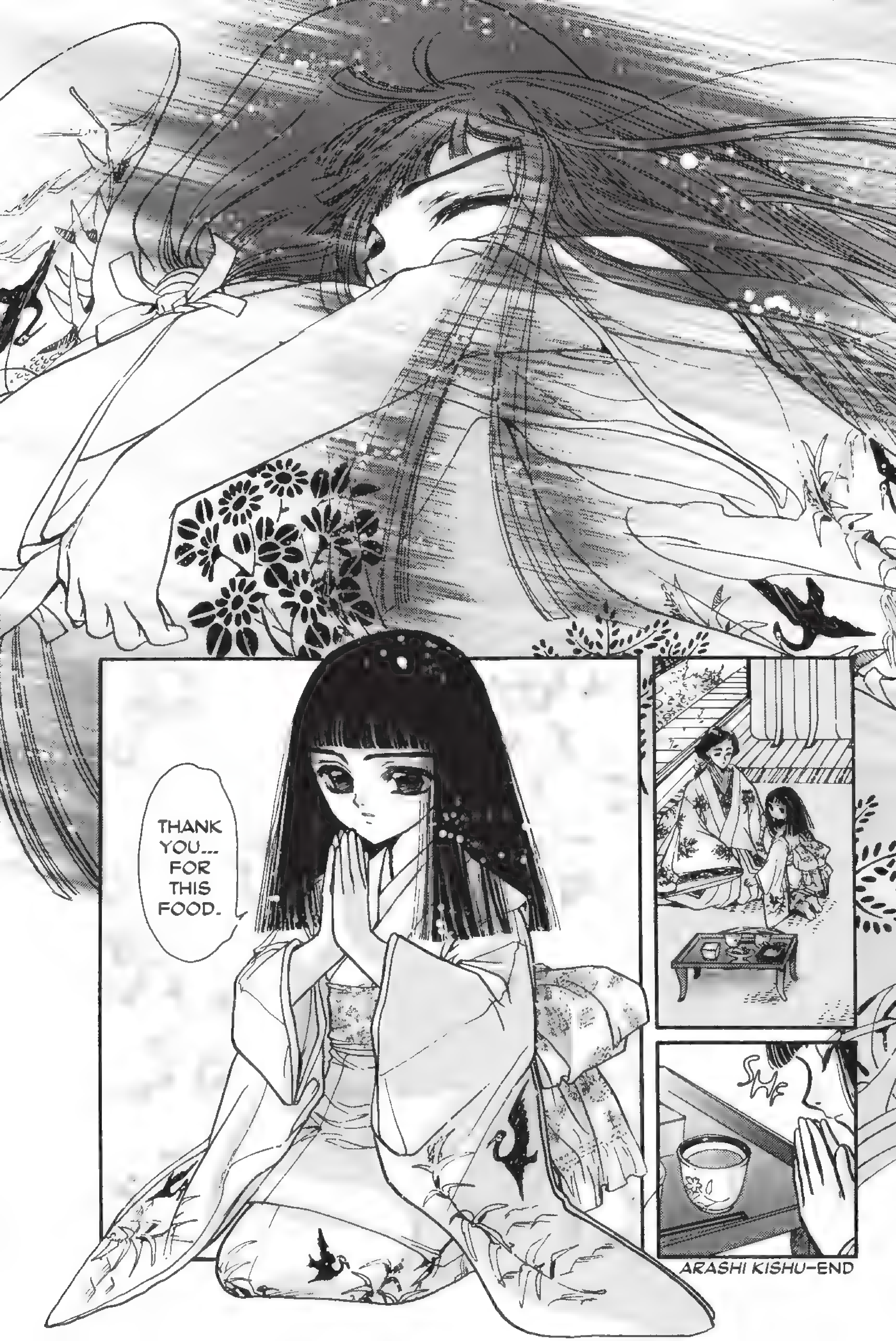

LADY KAEDE.
SHE BATHED WILLINGLY ENOUGH, BUT NOW...
YOU DON'T WANT TO EAT?
I HAVEN'T DECIDED YET.
I HAVEN'T DECIDED WHETHER I WANT TO LIVE OR NOT.


CAN YOU TELL ME ABOUT YOUR MOTHER?
SHE WAS SCARED ALL THE TIME.
SHE HUGGED ME AND SAID "THEY" WOULD NEVER GET ME.
SHE ALWAYS STAYED AT HOME BECAUSE SHE THOUGHT SOMEONE WOULD TAKE ME AWAY IF SHE LEFT ME ALONE.
WE HAD BARELY ANY MONEY.
BUT SHE WAS GOOD TO ME.
YOUR MOTHER...
...USED TO BE A PRIESTESS HERE AT ISE SHRINE.
SEVEN YEARS AGO, A COLLEGE STUDENT CAME HERE TO DO RESEARCH.
YOUR MOTHER FELL IN LOVE. WHEN SHE BECAME PREGNANT, SHE LEFT.
WHY DID SHE LEAVE?
BECAUSE SHE KNEW YOUR FATE WAS TO BE A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.


A DRAGON... OF HEAVEN...?
ARASHI...
IT'S TRUE THAT A LIFE LIVED ALONE, WITH NO FRIENDS OR FAMILY...
...IS NO LIFE AT ALL. PERHAPS DEATH *WOULD* BE BETTER.
KNOWING YOU'RE ALL ALONE...
...MAY BE THE GREATEST UNHAPPINESS THERE IS.
BUT IN YOUR LIFE...
...YOU'RE GOING TO MEET SO MANY PEOPLE, ARASHI.


SOME WILL BE FRIENDS ...
...WHILE OTHERS WILL BE ENEMIES.
AND SOME WILL LOVE YOU VERY, VERY MUCH.
HUG


WE SEARCHED FOR YOU AND YOUR MOTHER FOR SO LONG.
WE WERE TOO LATE FOR HER...
...BUT AT LEAST WE FOUND YOU.
DO YOU MEAN IT'S BETTER IF I'M ALIVE?
IF YOU DIED, IT WOULD BREAK MY HEART.
YOU'D BE SAD?
YES.
REALLY...?


THANK YOU... FOR THIS FOOD.
SHF

ARASHI KISHU—END

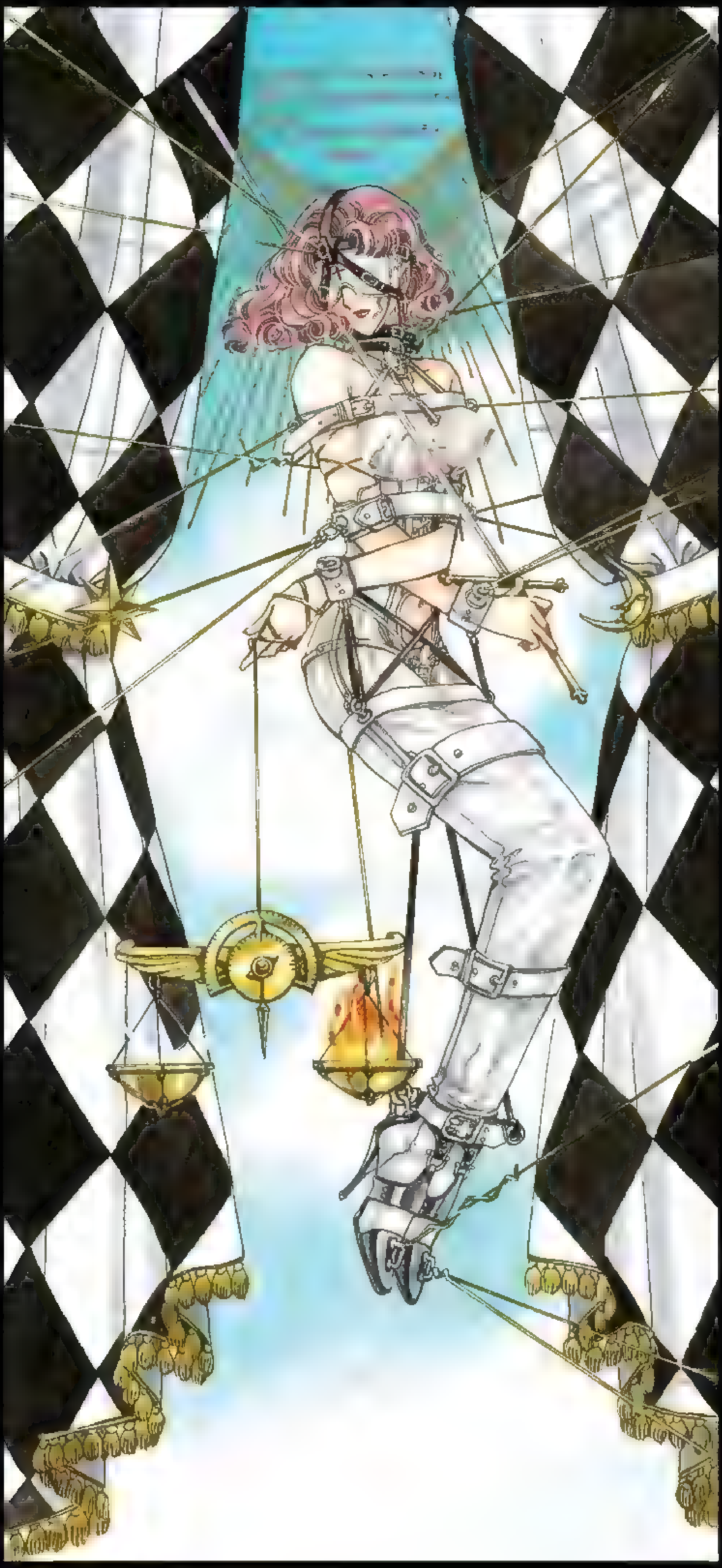
X

X

VOLUME 4, PART 2

KEKKAI I

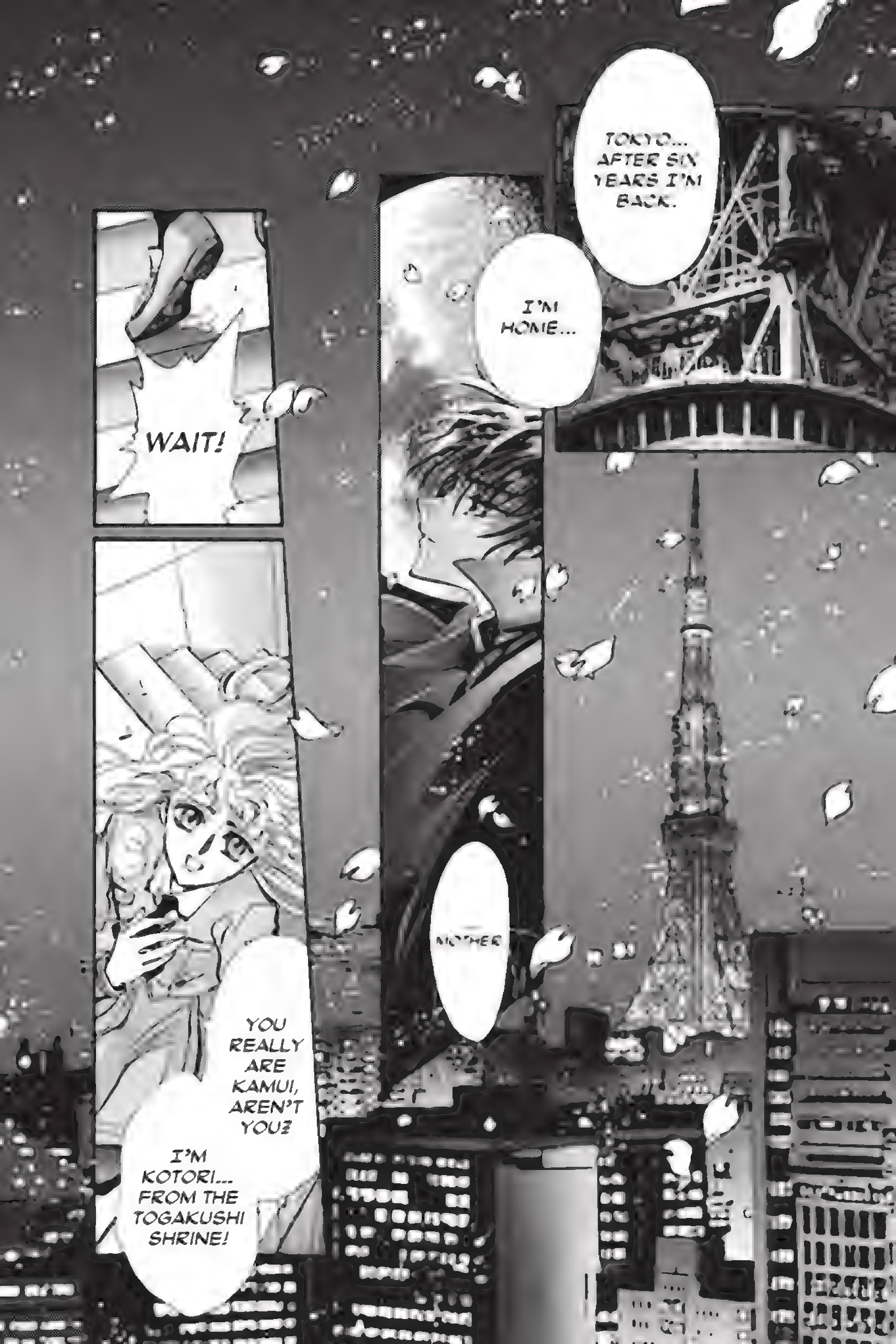
X

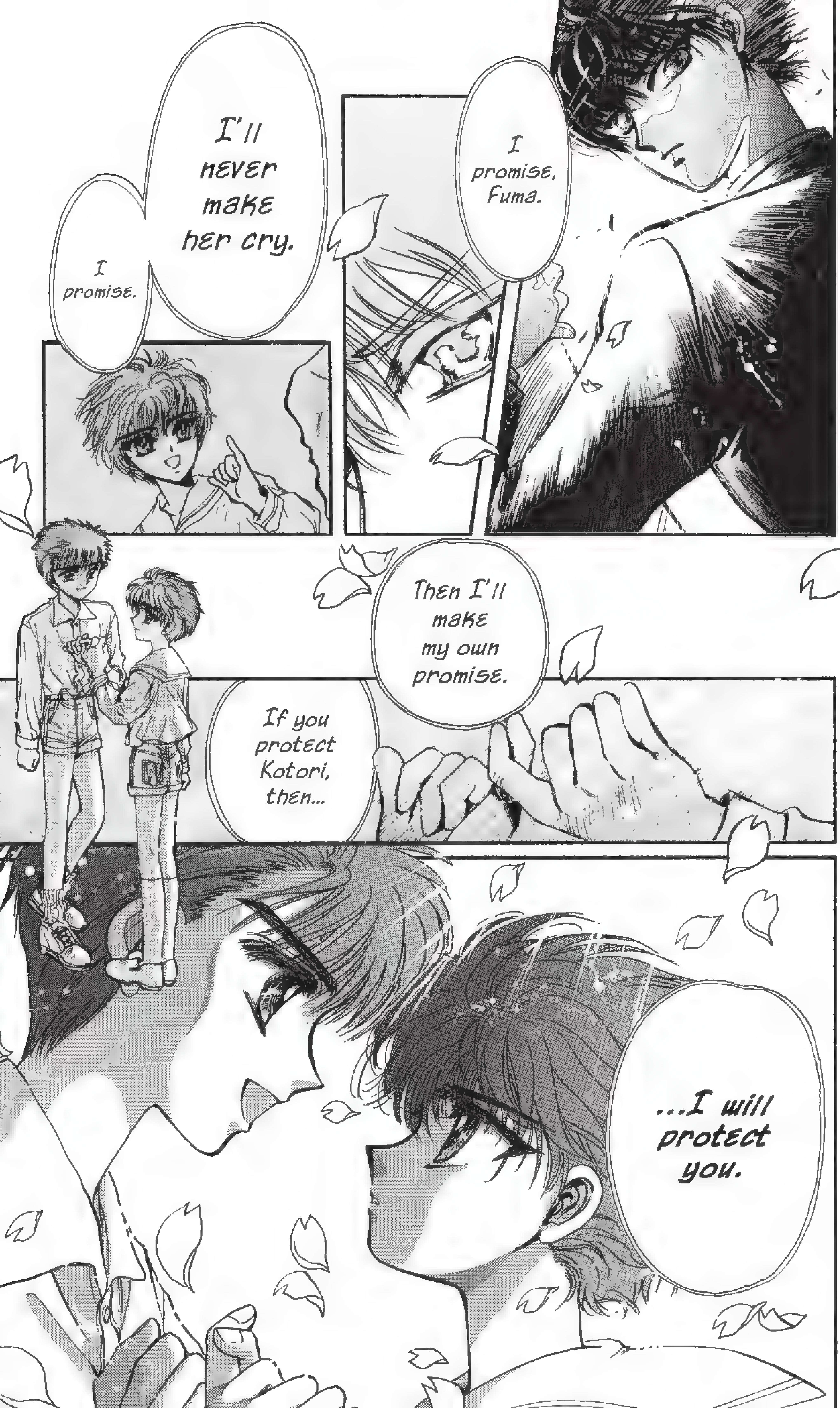


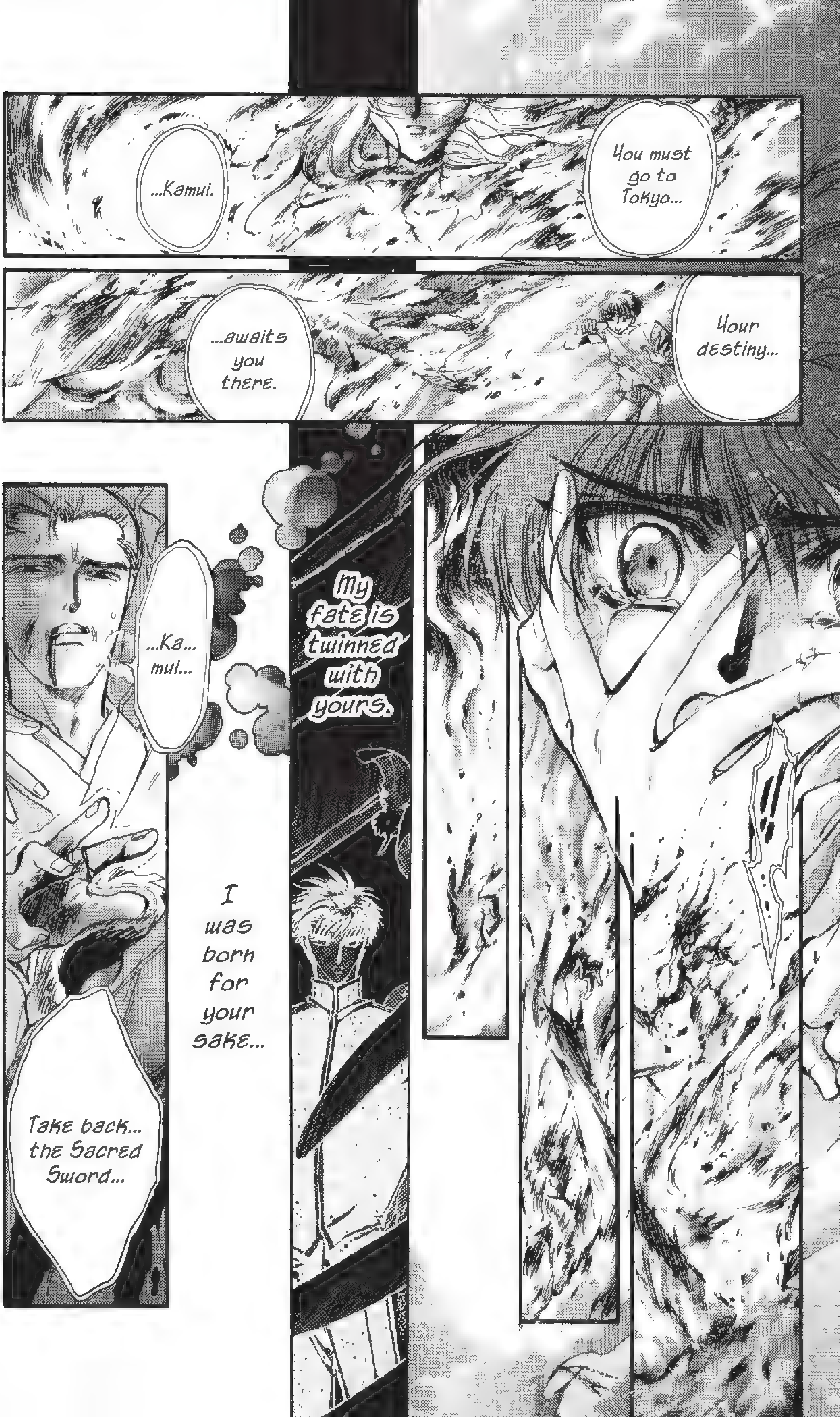
JUSTICE

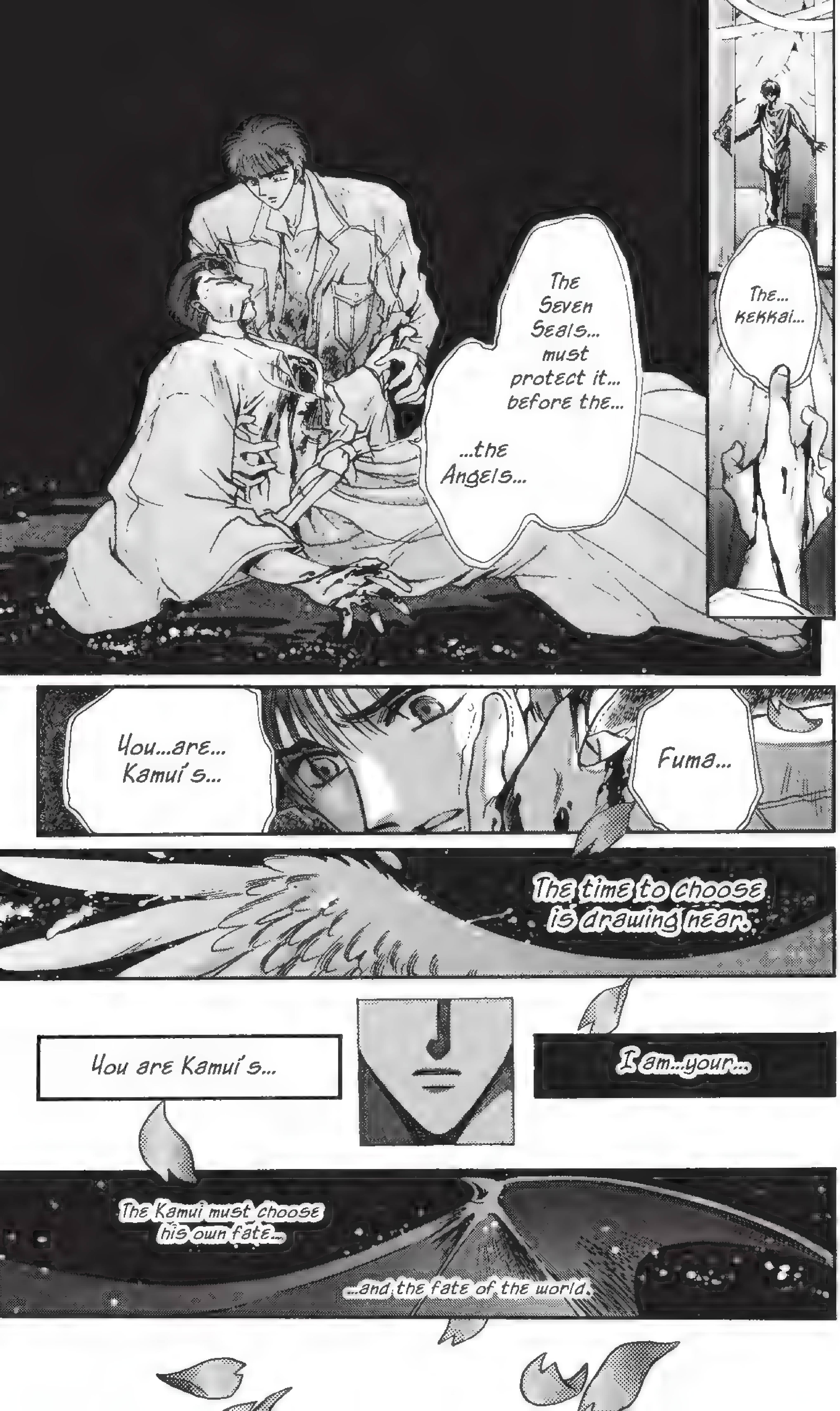
ל

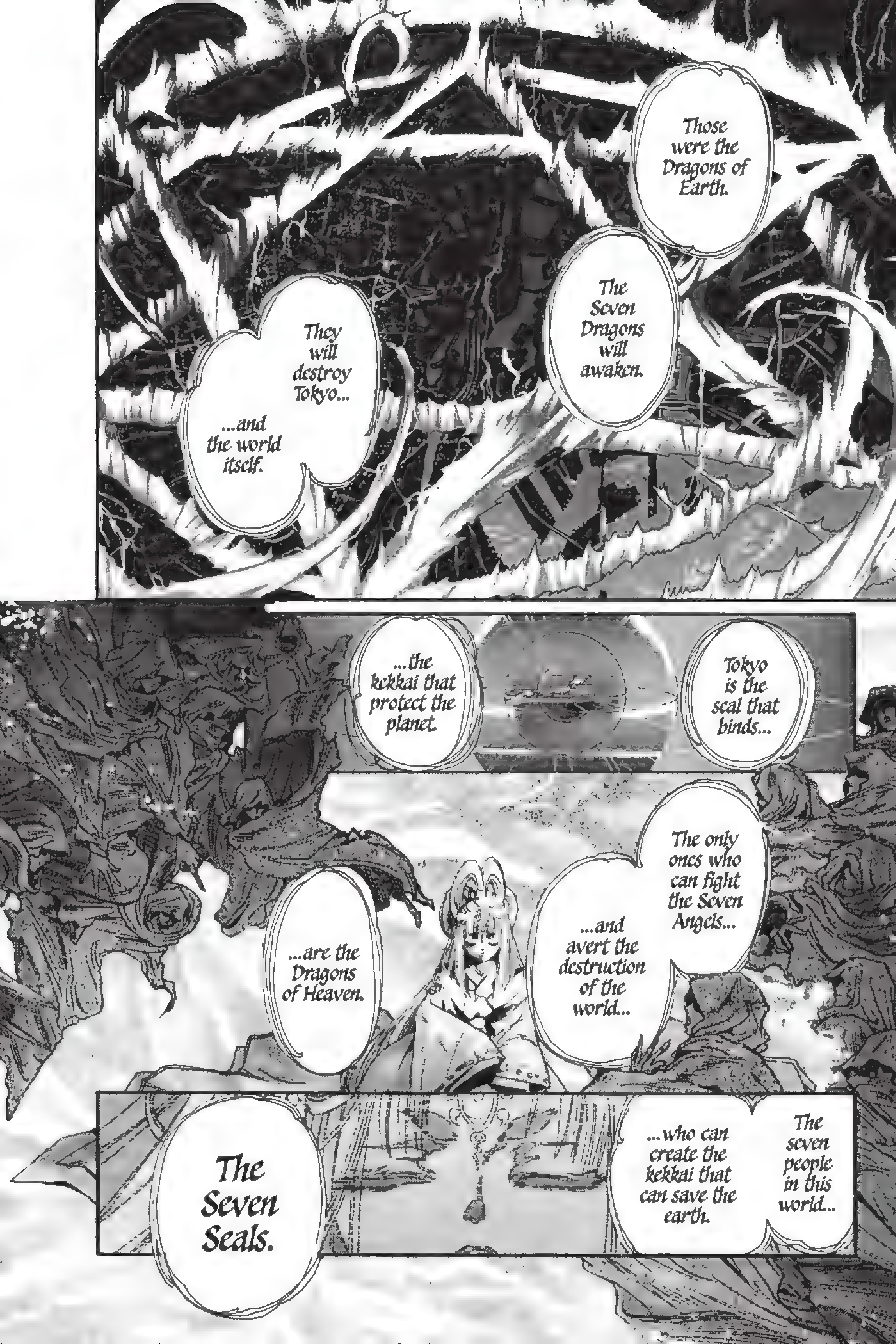
The Earth's final saga has begun.

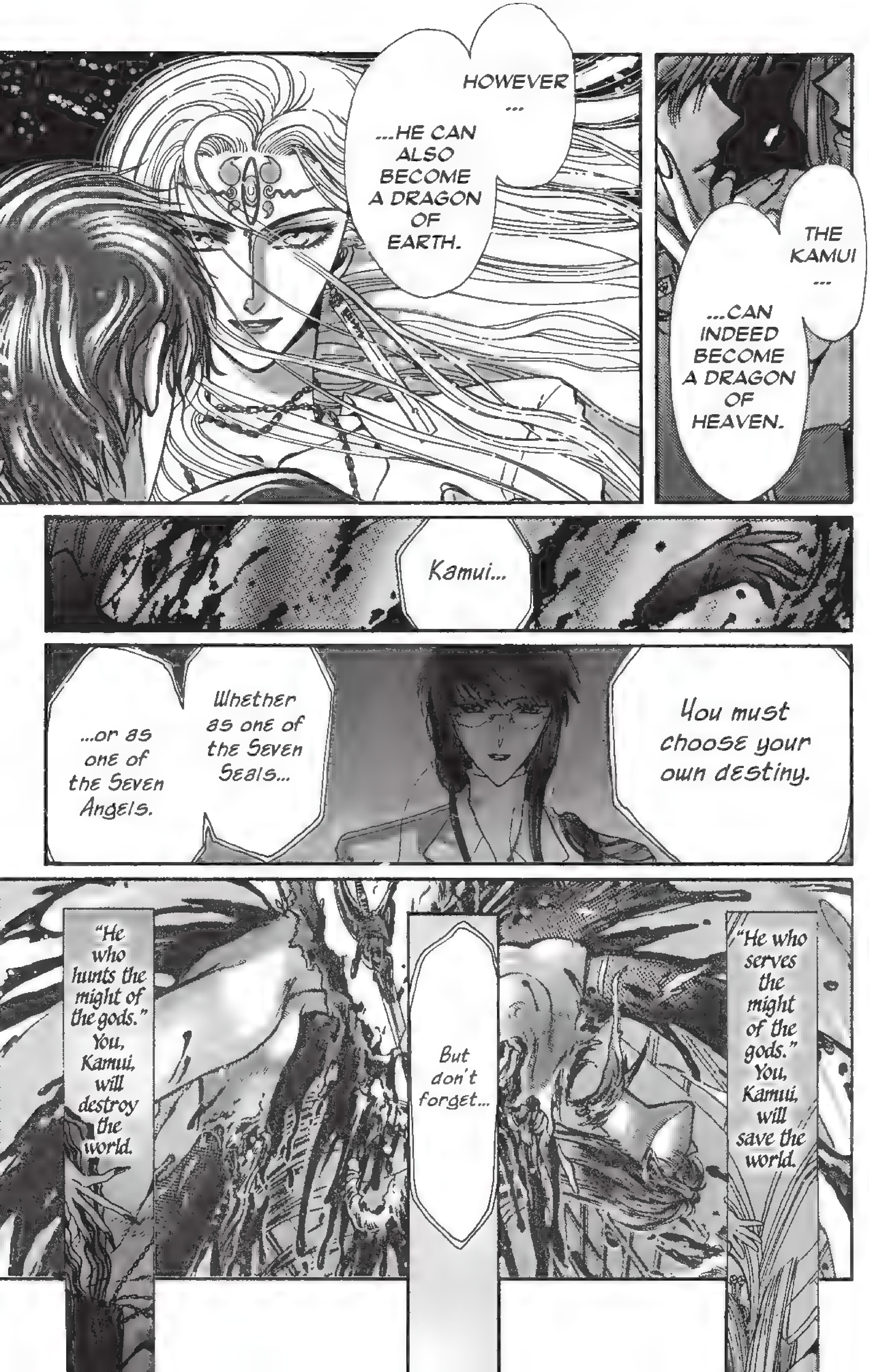

TOKYO... AFTER SIX YEARS I'M BACK.
I'M HOME...
MOTHER
WAIT!
YOU REALLY ARE KAMUI, AREN'T YOU?
I'M KOTORI... FROM THE TOGAKUSHI SHRINE!

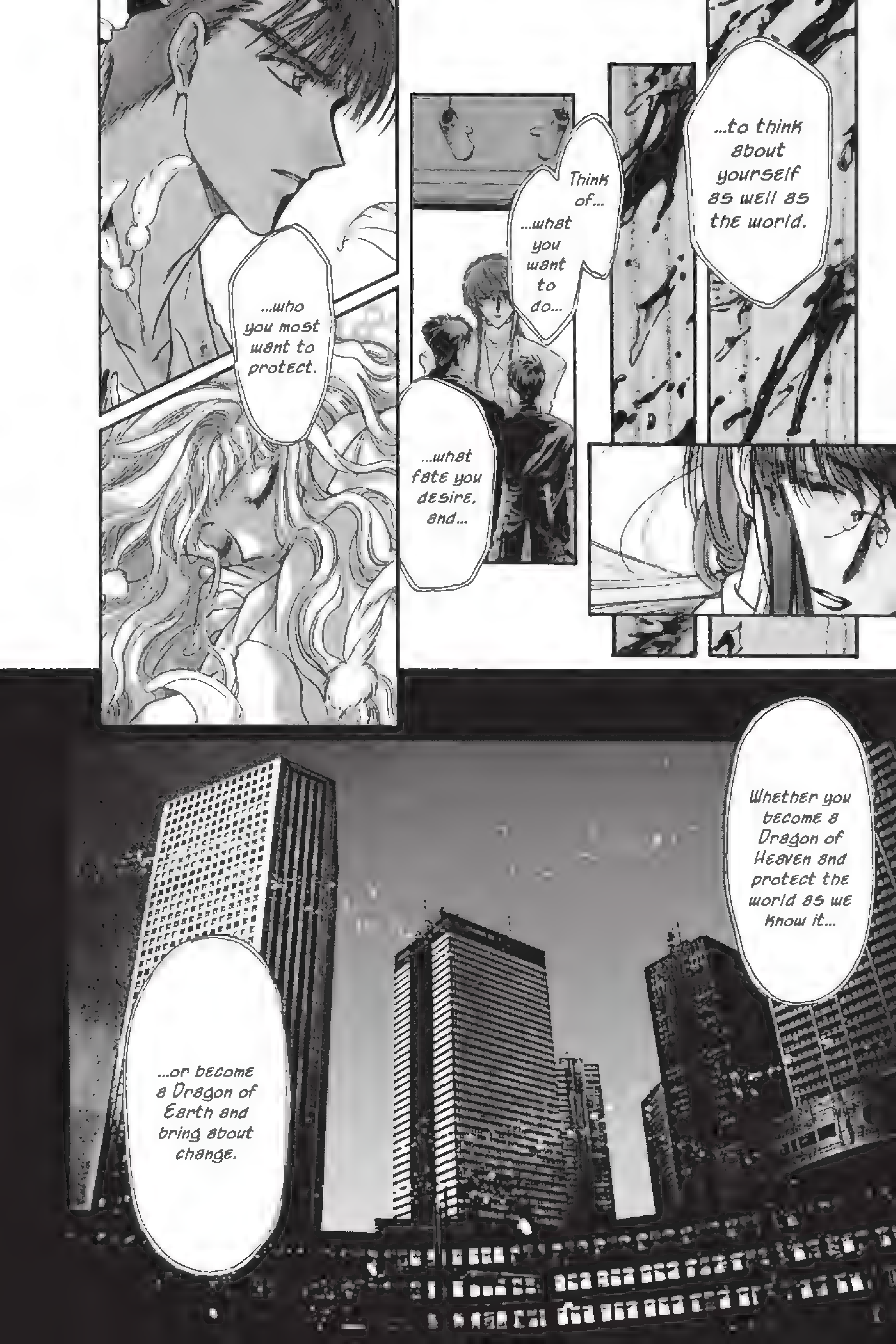

I promise, Fuma.
I'll never make her cry.
I promise.
Then I'll make my own promise.
If you protect Kotori, then...
...I will protect you.

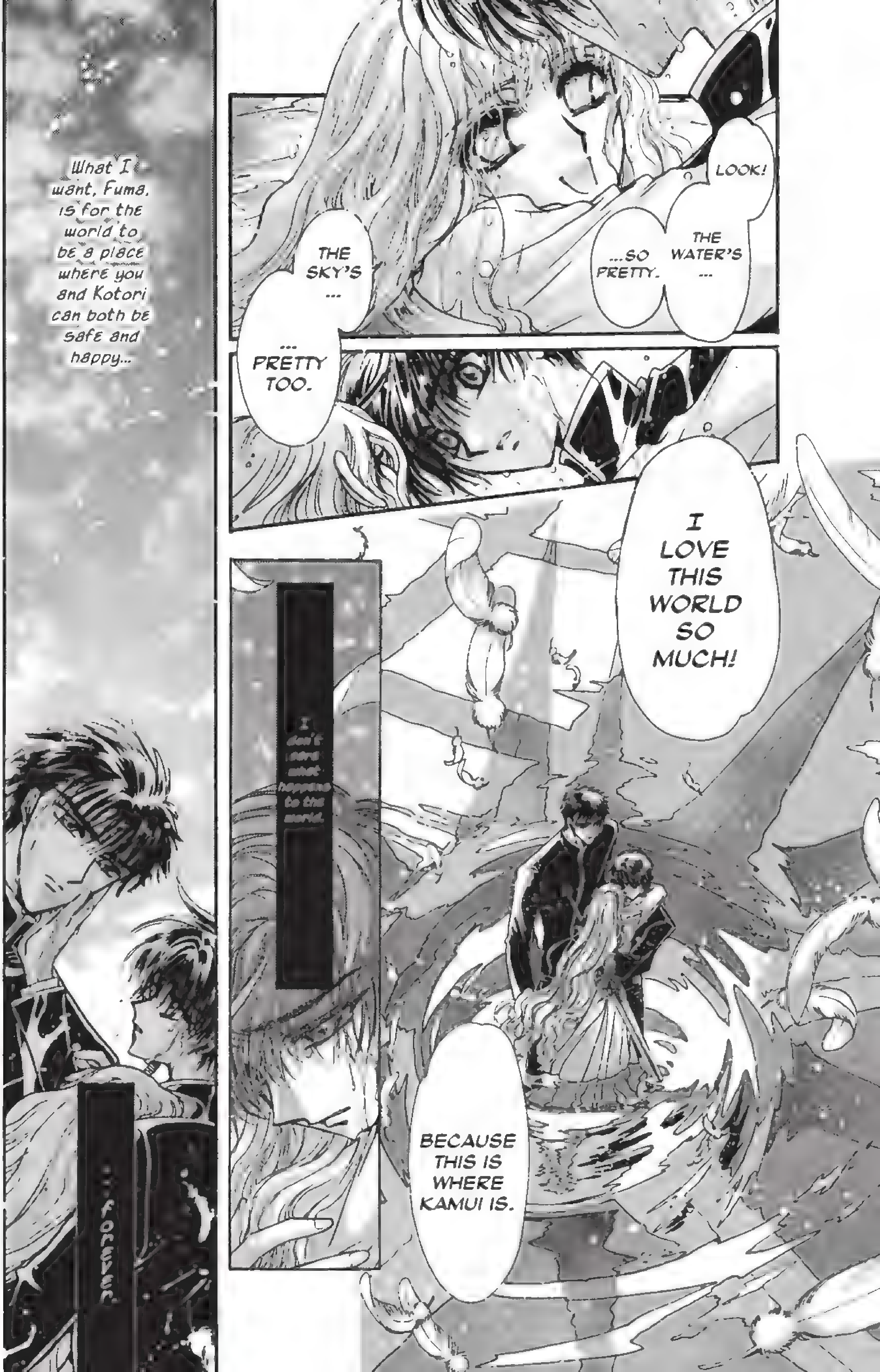

You must go to Tokyo...
...Kamui.
Your destiny...
...awaits you there.
My fate is twinned with yours.
I was born for your sake...
...Ka... mui...
Take back... the Sacred Sword...

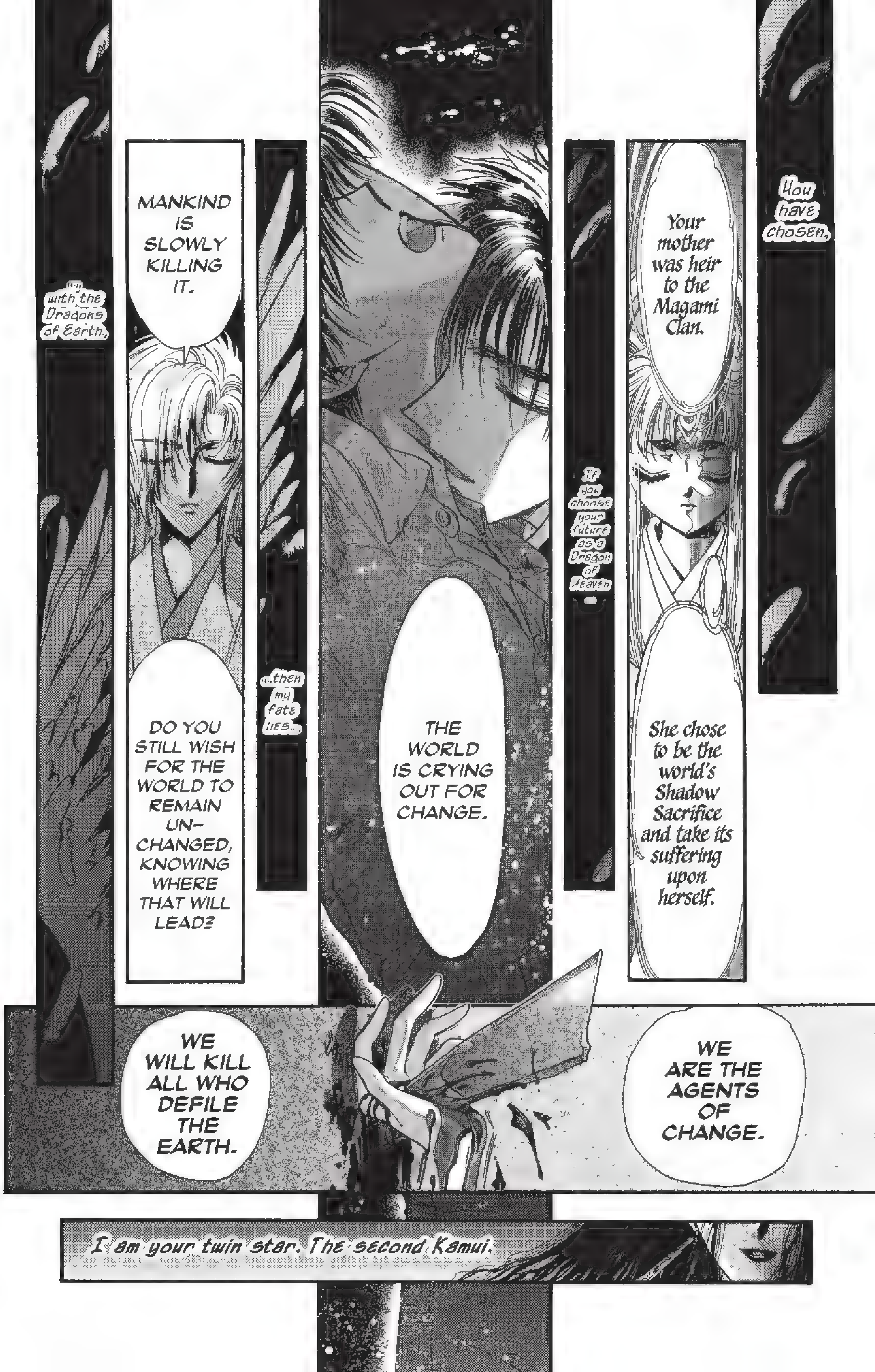

The... kekkai...
The Seven Seals... must protect it... before the...
...the Angels...
Fuma...
You...are... Kamui's...
The time to choose is drawing near.
I am...your...
You are Kamui's...
The Kamui must choose his own fate...
...and the fate of the world.

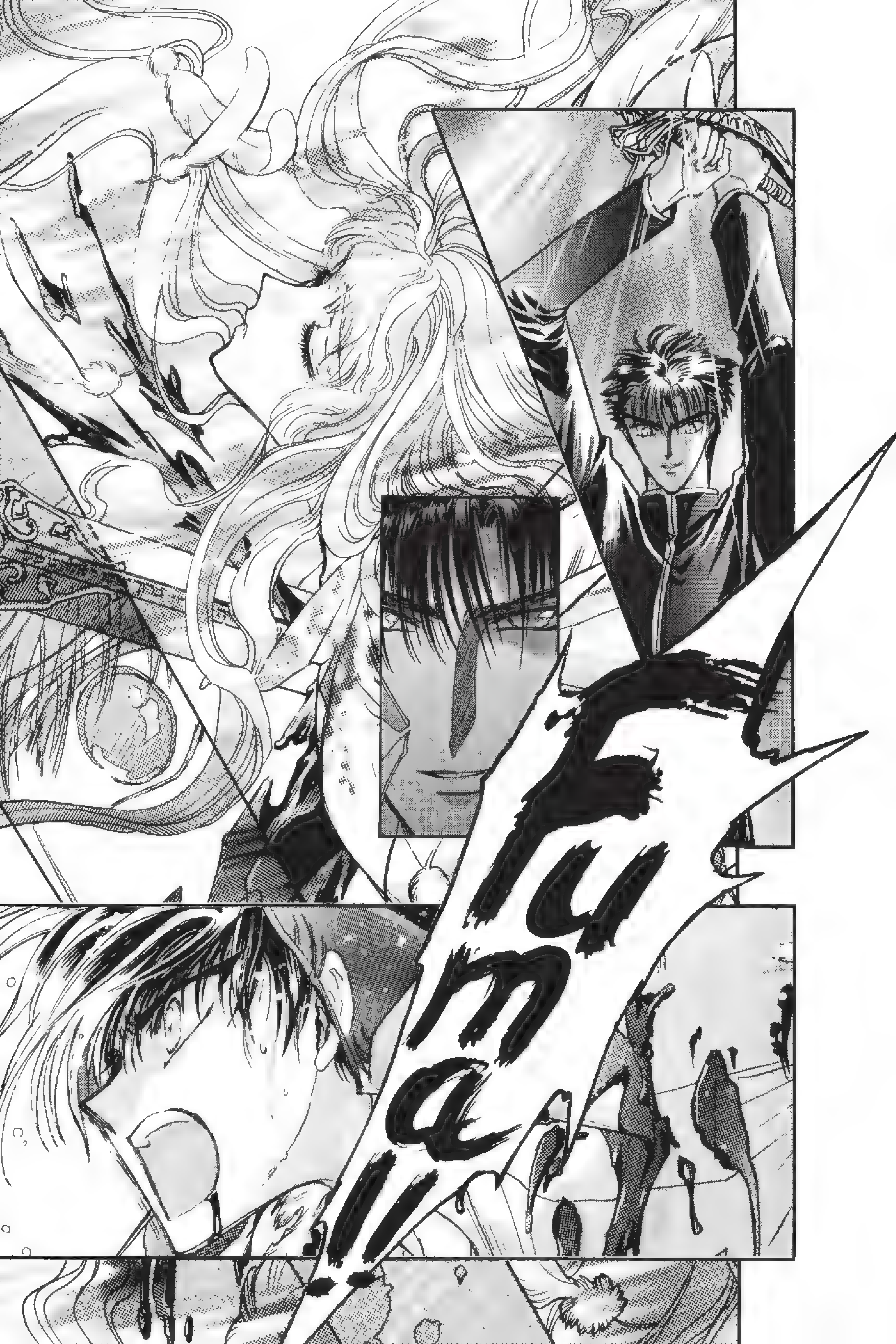

Those were the Dragons of Earth.
The Seven Dragons will awaken.
They will destroy Tokyo...
...and the world itself.
Tokyo is the seal that binds...
...the kekkai that protect the planet.
The only ones who can fight the Seven Angels...
...and avert the destruction of the world...
...are the Dragons of Heaven.
The seven people in this world...
...who can create the kekkai that can save the earth.
The Seven Seals.

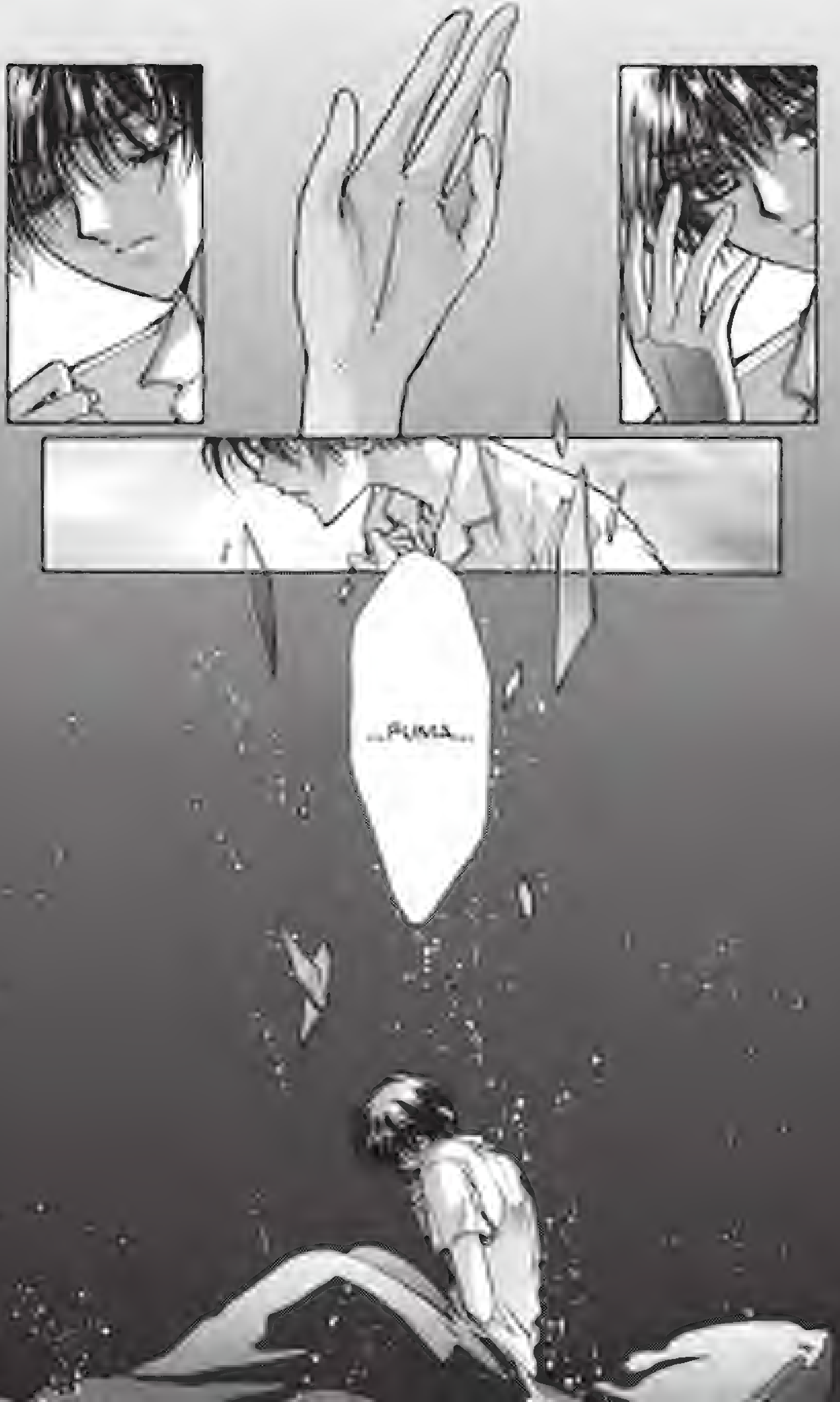

THE KAMUI ...
...CAN INDEED BECOME A DRAGON OF HEAVEN.
HOWEVER ...
...HE CAN ALSO BECOME A DRAGON OF EARTH.
Kamui...
You must choose your own destiny.
Whether as one of the Seven Seals...
...or as one of the Seven Angels.
"He who serves the might of the gods." You, Kamui, will save the world.
But don't forget...
"He who hunts the might of the gods." You, Kamui, will destroy the world.

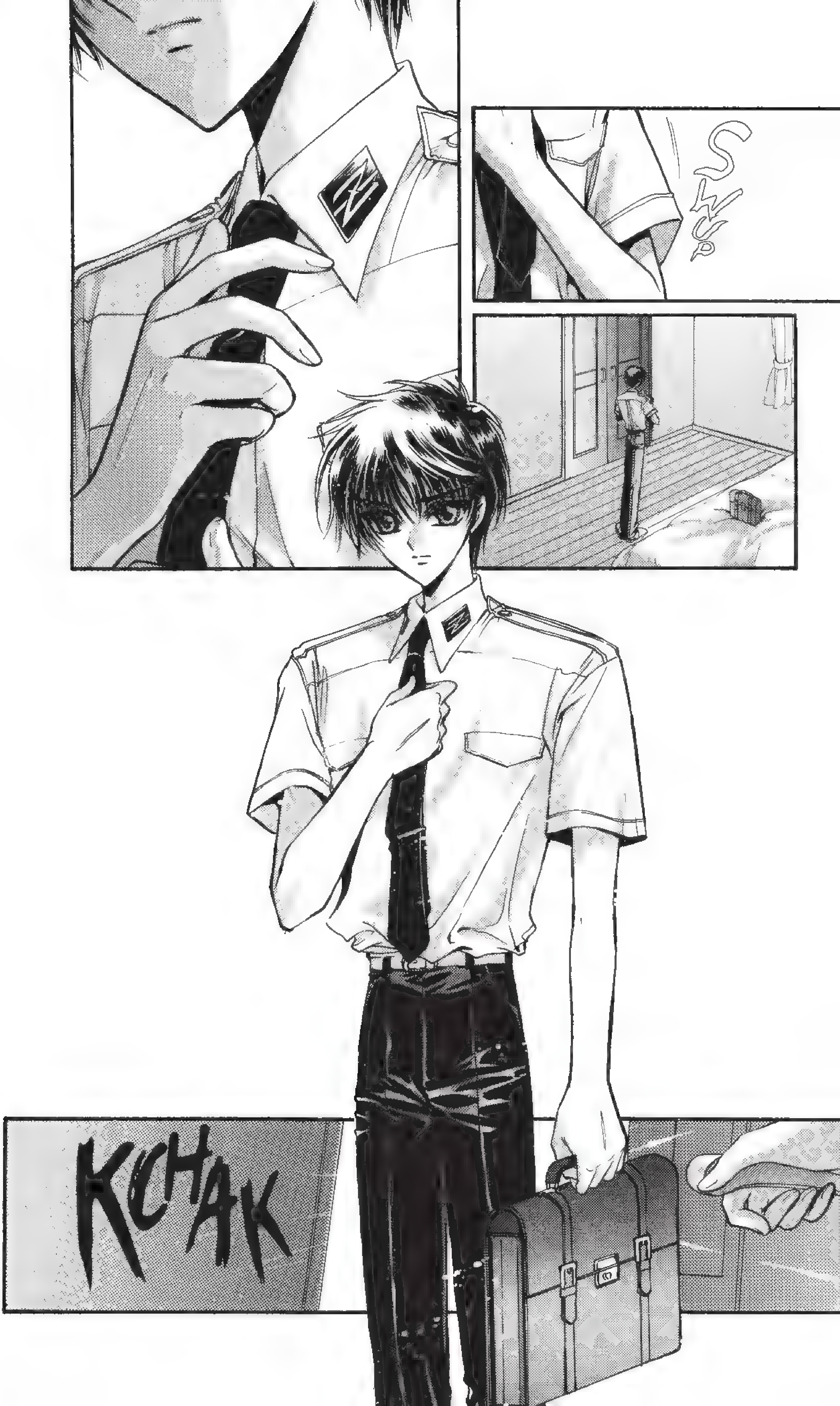

...to think about yourself as well as the world.
Think of... ...what you want to do...
...what fate you desire, and...
...who you most want to protect.
Whether you become a Dragon of Heaven and protect the world as we know it...
...or become a Dragon of Earth and bring about change.

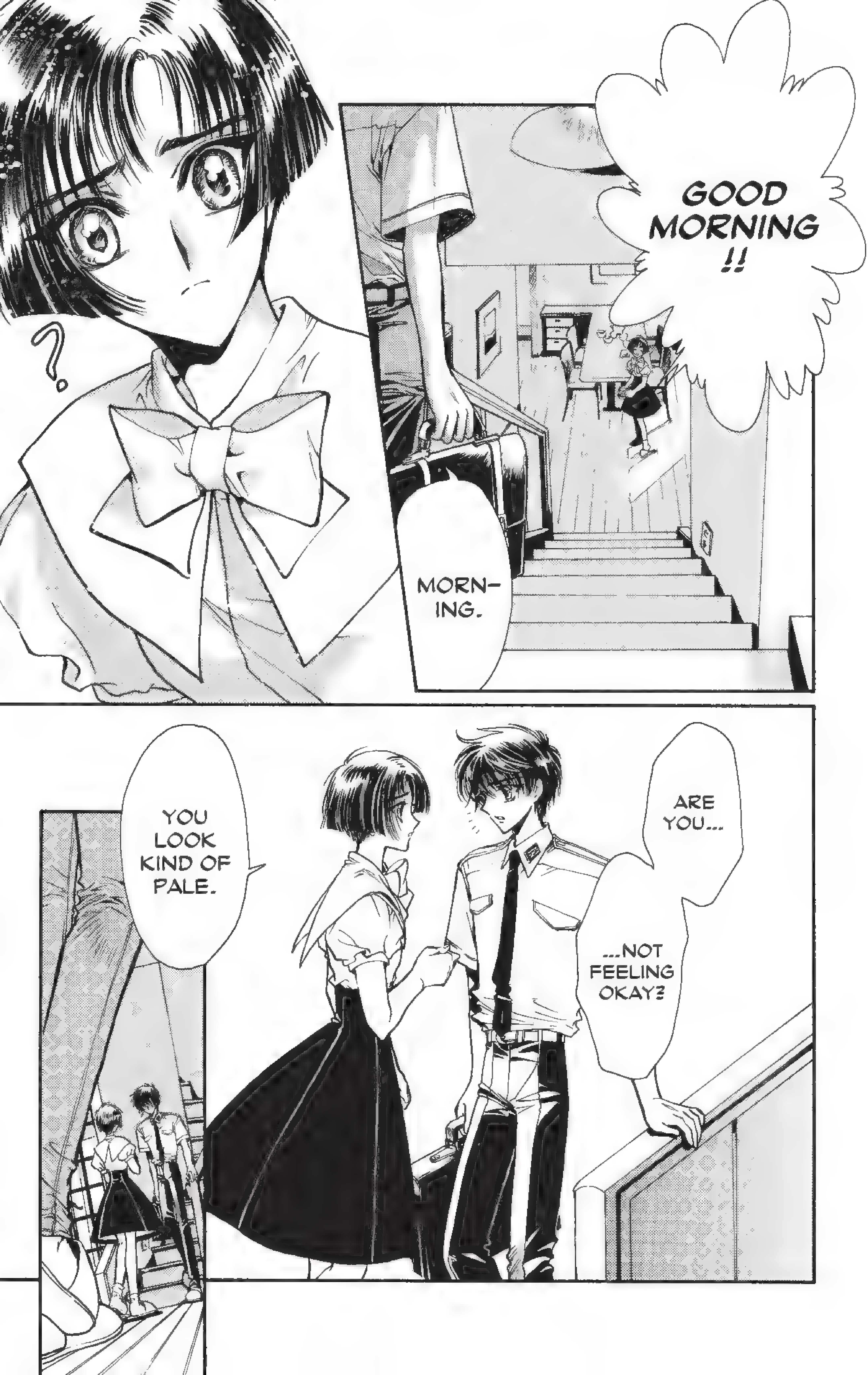

LOOK!
THE WATER'S ...
...SO PRETTY.
THE SKY'S ...
... PRETTY TOO.
I LOVE THIS WORLD SO MUCH!
BECAUSE THIS IS WHERE KAMUI IS.
I don't care what happens to the world.
What I want, Fuma, is for the world to be a place where you and Kotori can both be safe and happy...
...forever

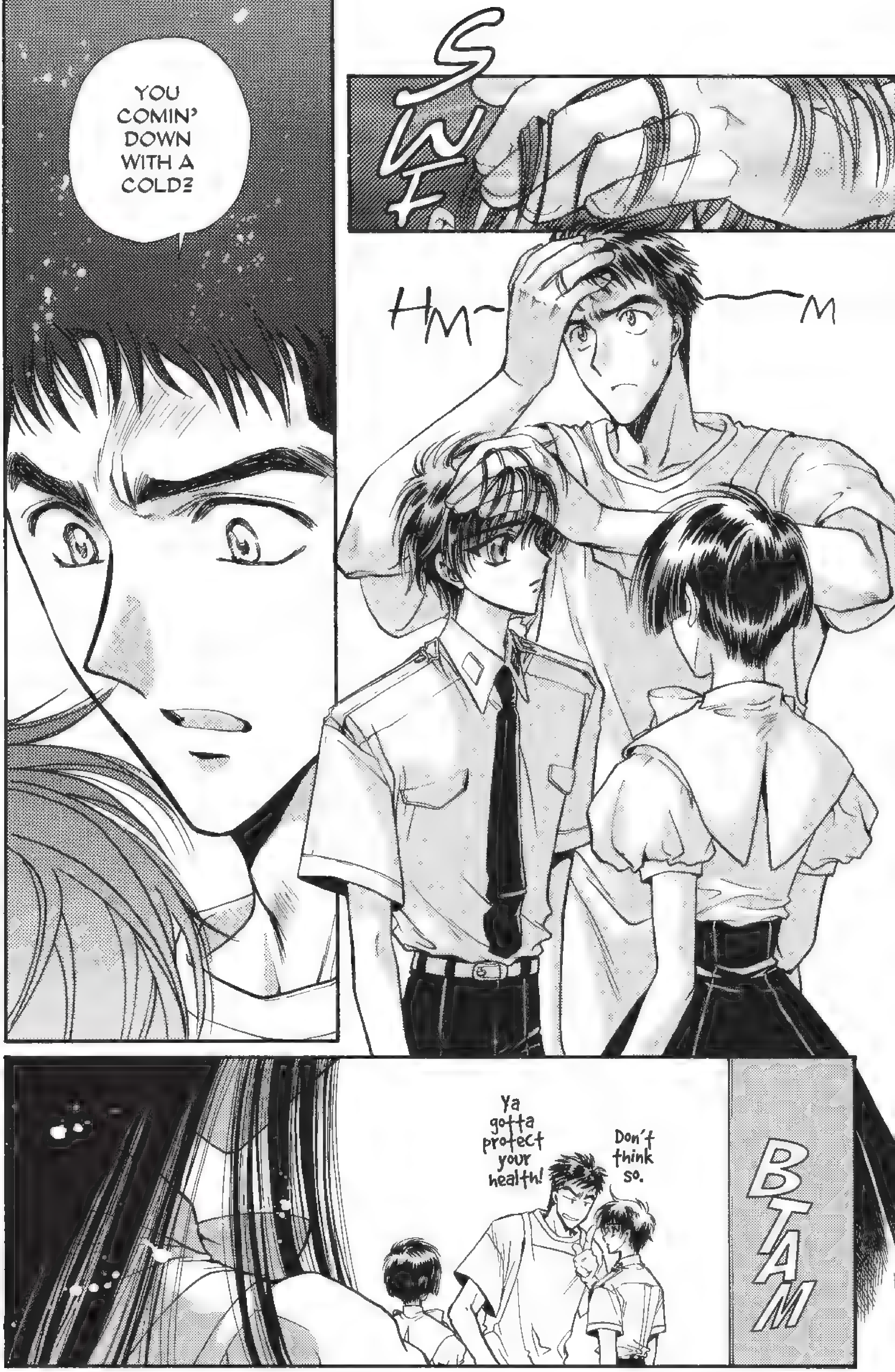

You have chosen.
Your mother was heir to the Magami Clan.
She chose to be the world's Shadow Sacrifice and take its suffering upon herself.
If you choose your future as a Dragon of Heaven
THE WORLD IS CRYING OUT FOR CHANGE.
...then my fate lies...
MANKIND IS SLOWLY KILLING IT.
DO YOU STILL WISH FOR THE WORLD TO REMAIN UNCHANGED, KNOWING WHERE THAT WILL LEAD?
...with the Dragons of Earth.
WE ARE THE AGENTS OF CHANGE.
WE WILL KILL ALL WHO DEFILE THE EARTH.
I am your twin star. The second Kamui.

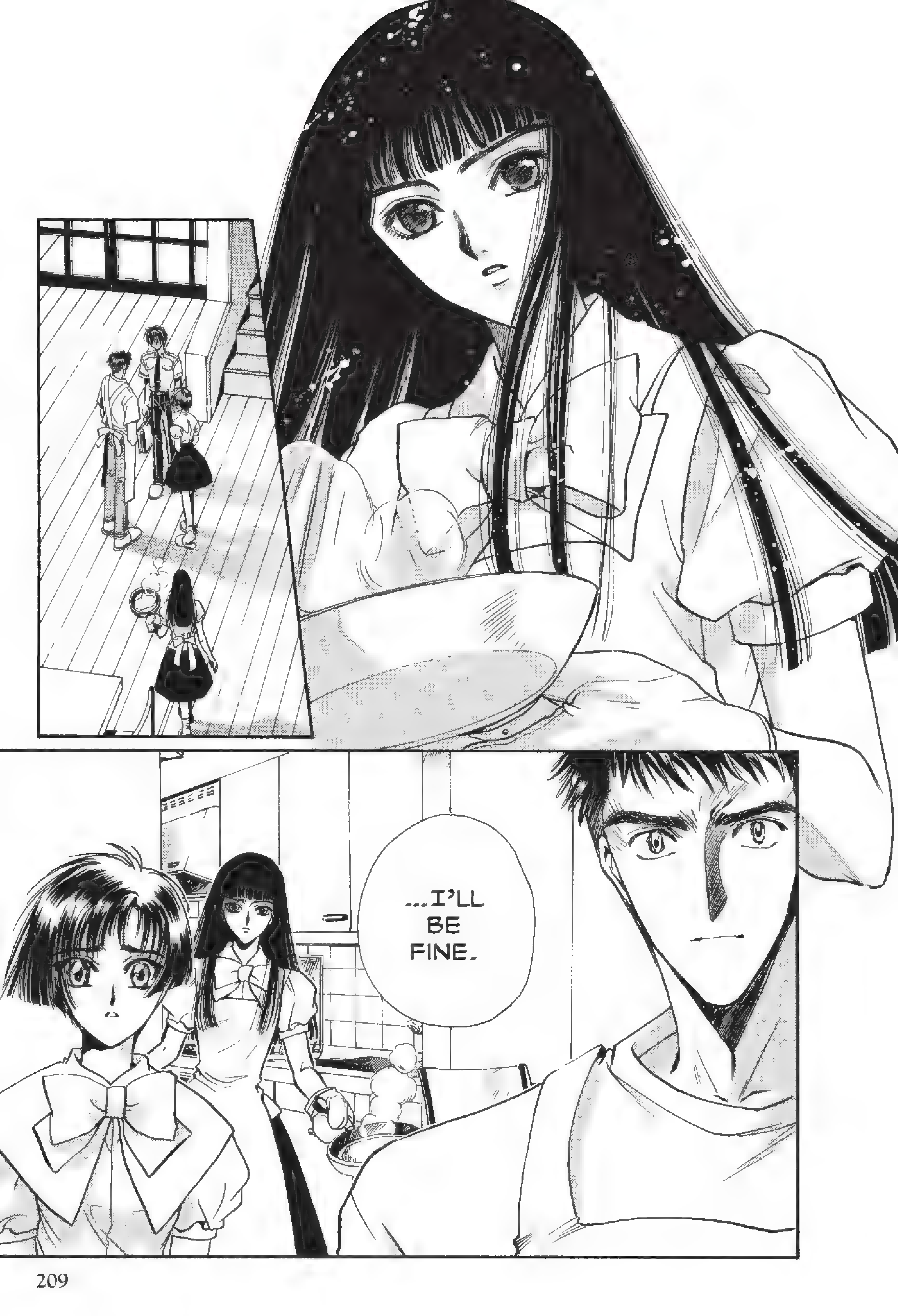

Fuma!!

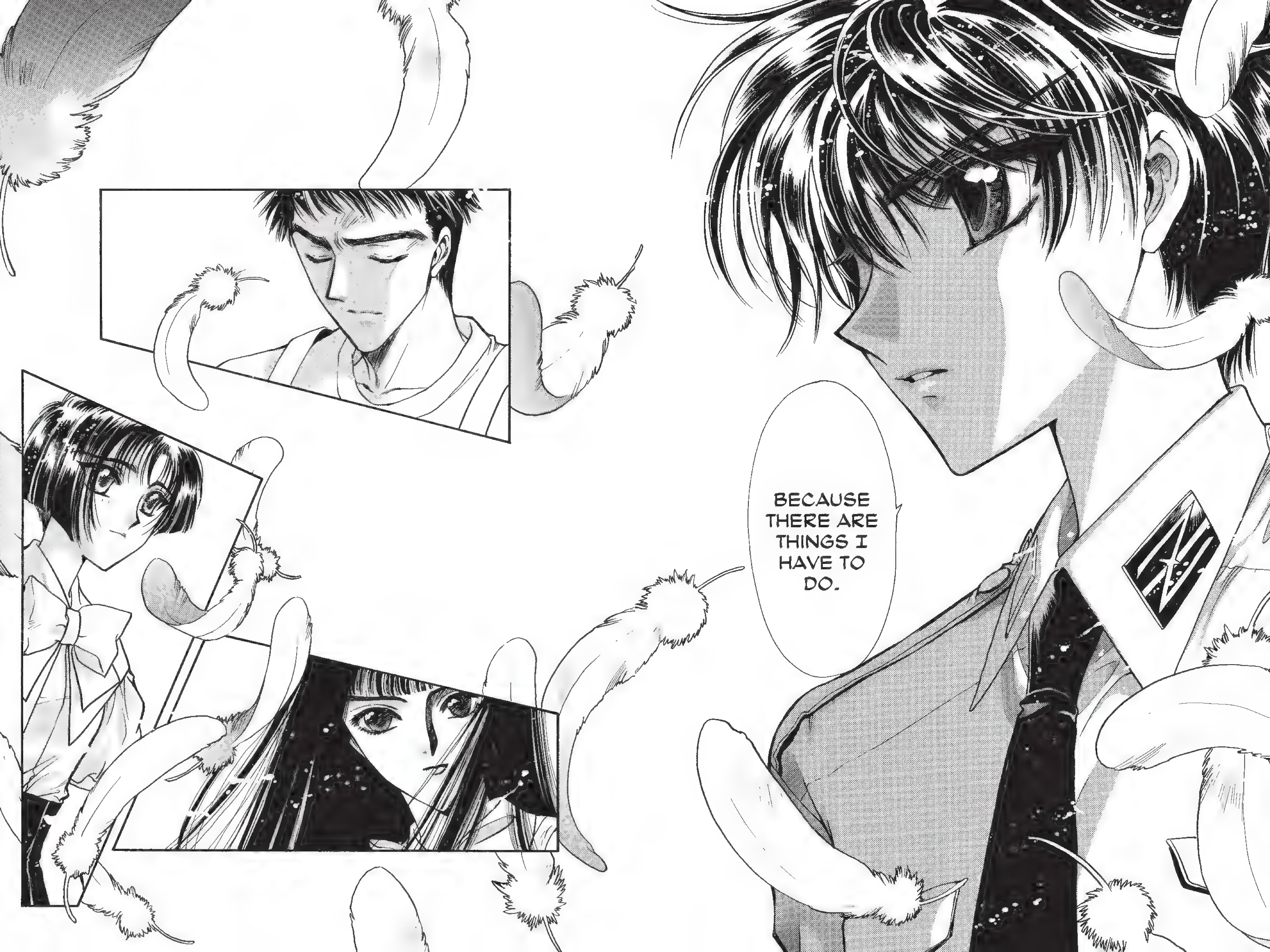

...PUMA...

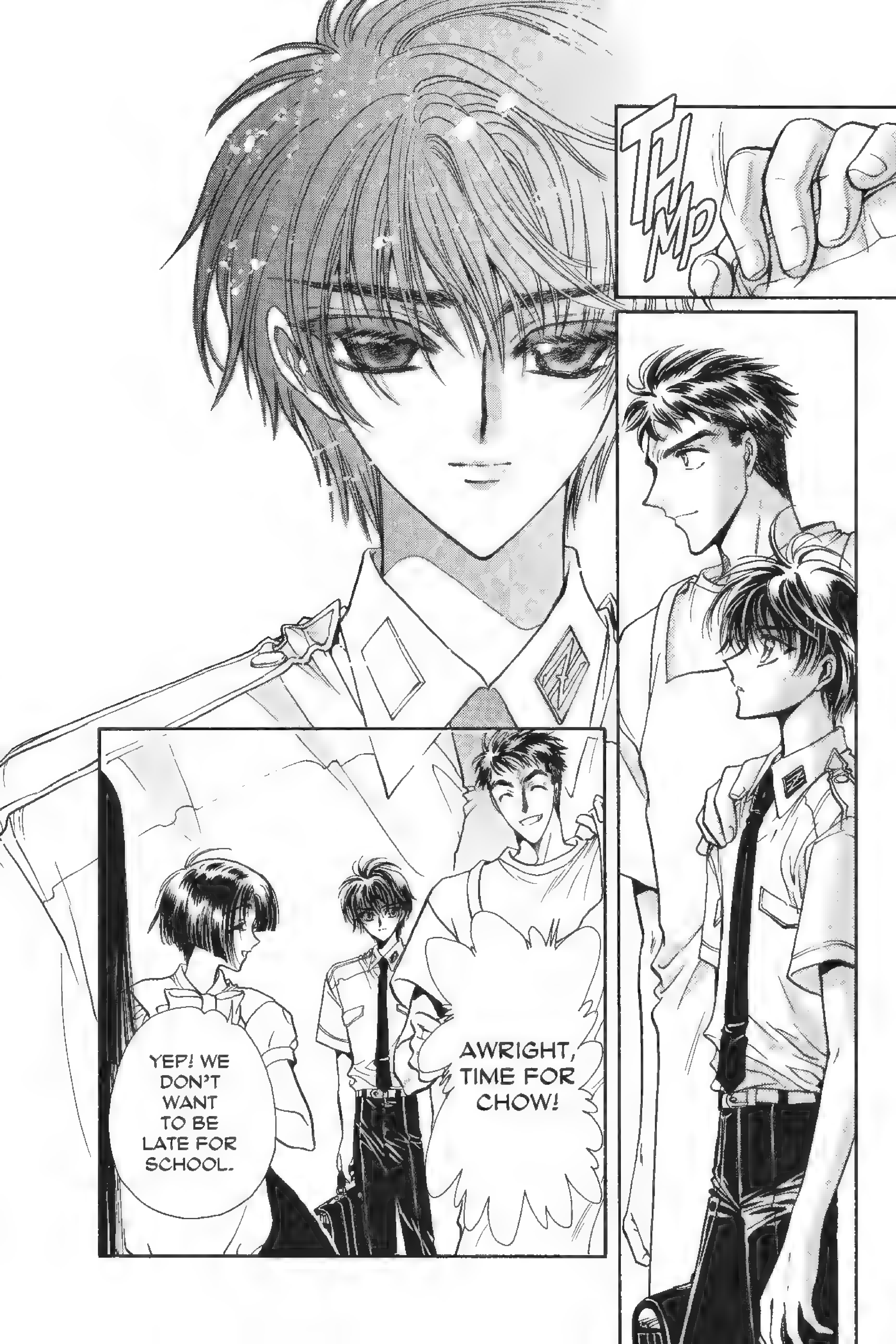

SWUP
KCHAK

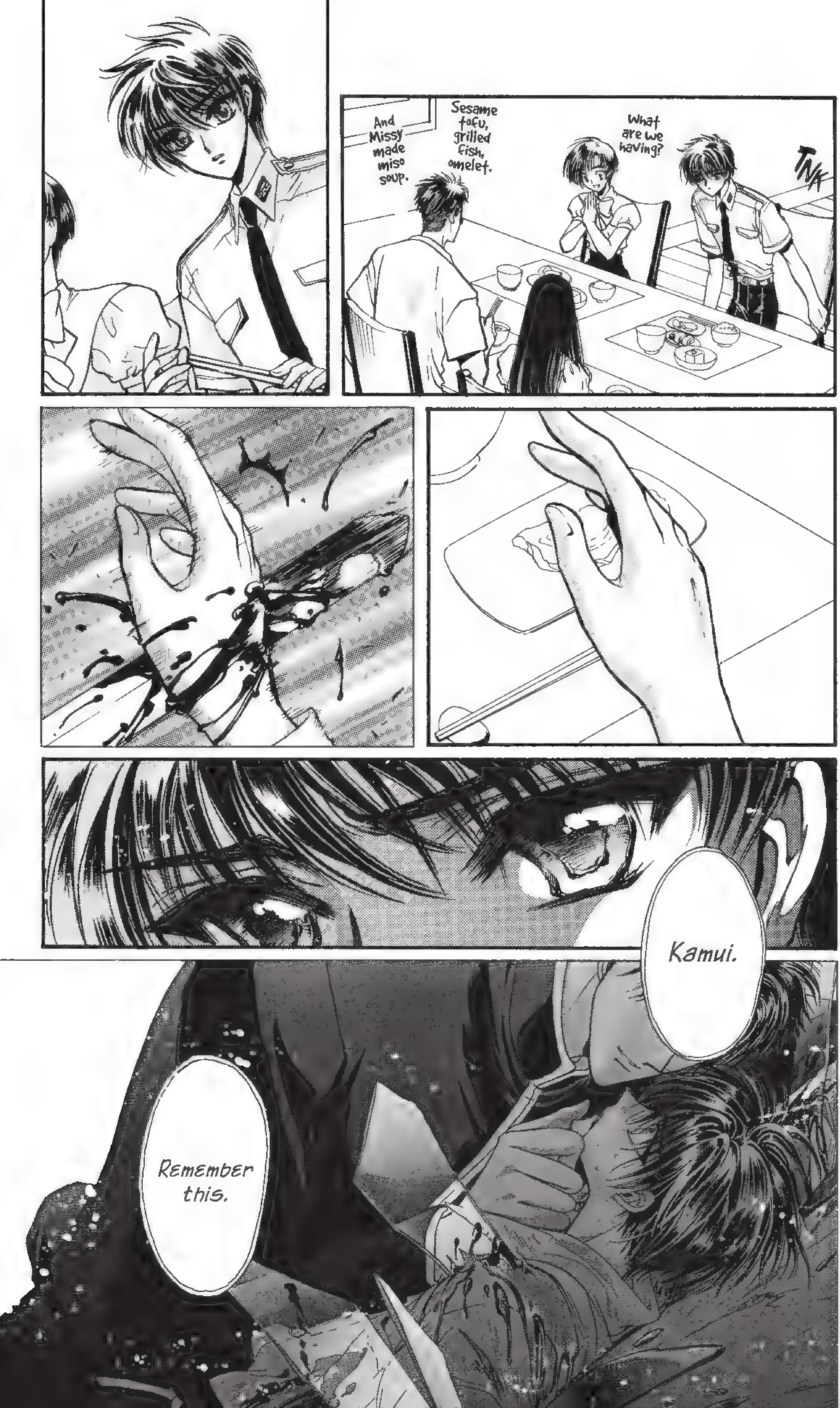

GOOD MORNING !!
MORNING.
?
ARE YOU...
...NOT FEELING OKAY?
YOU LOOK KIND OF PALE.

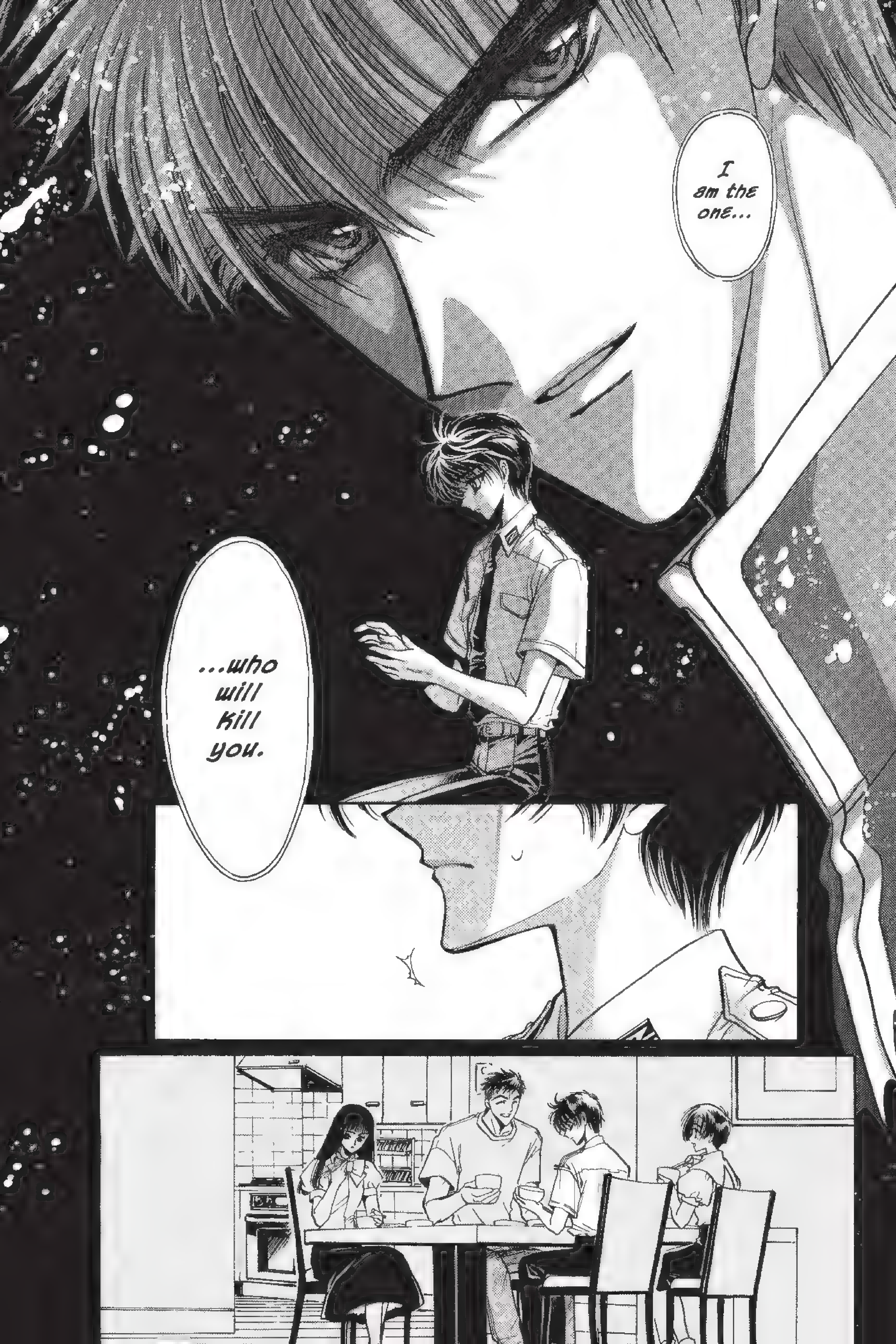

SWI
HM~~~M
YOU COMIN' DOWN WITH A COLD?
BTAM
Don't think so.
Ya gotta protect your health!

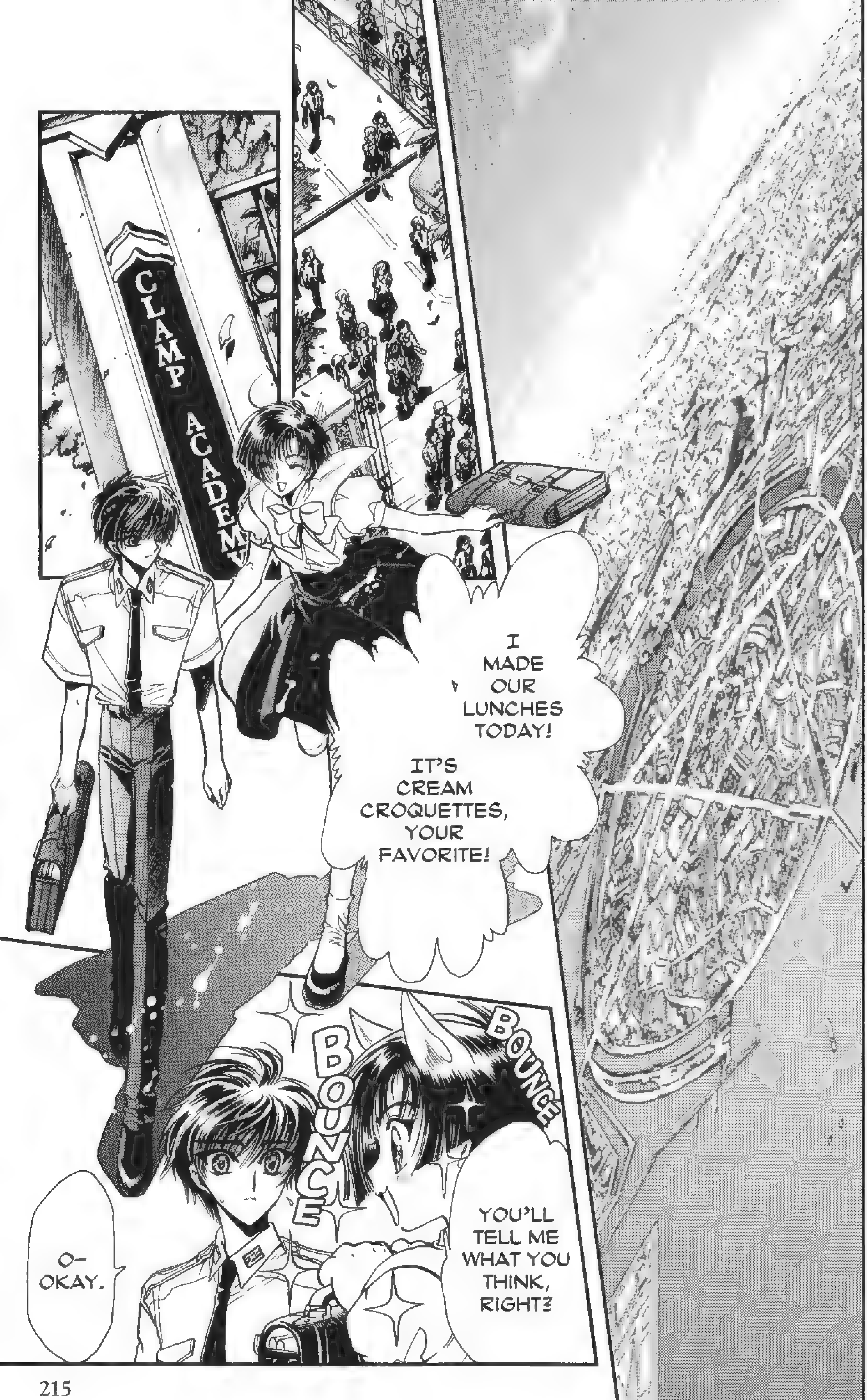

...I'LL BE FINE.

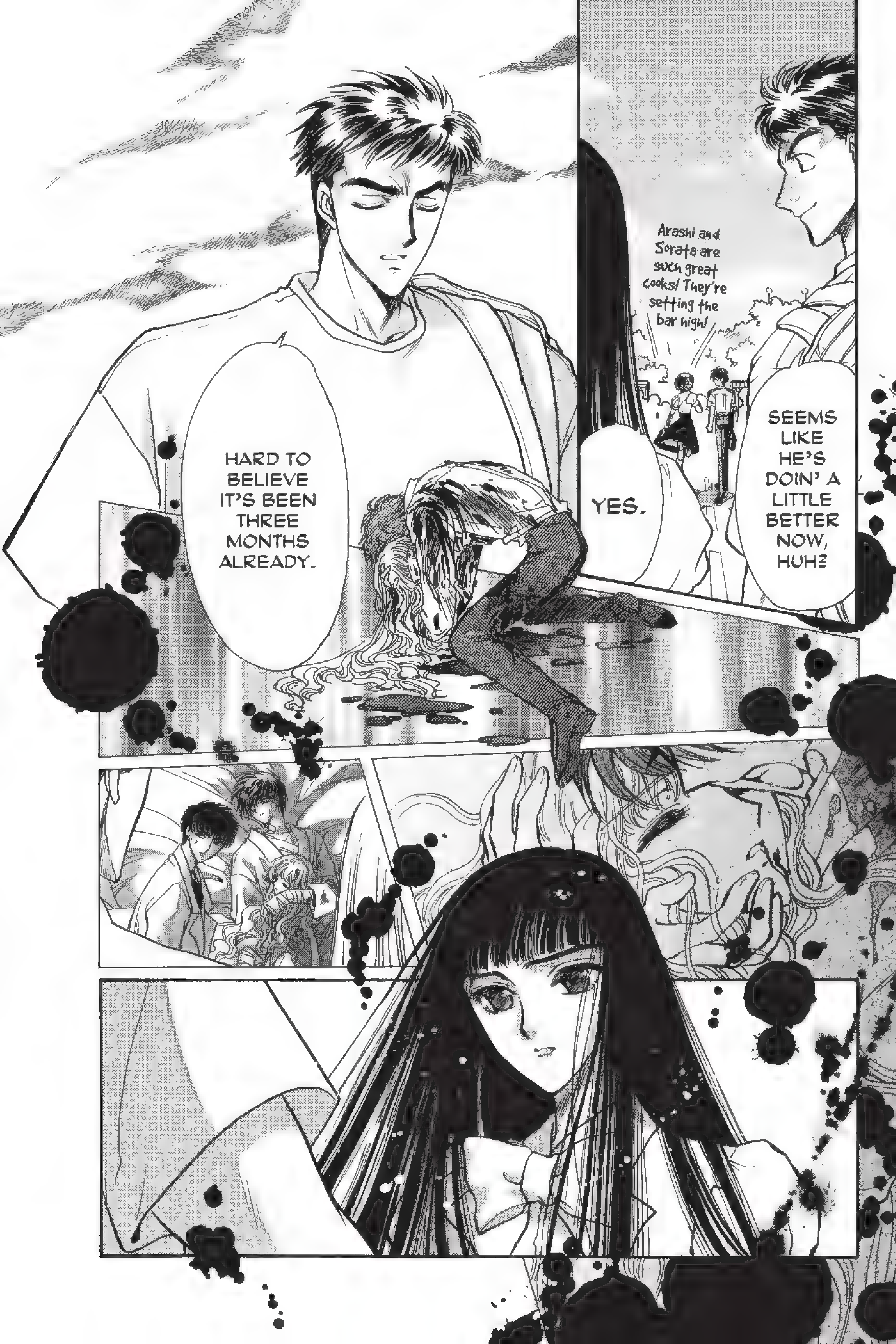

BECAUSE THERE ARE THINGS I HAVE TO DO.

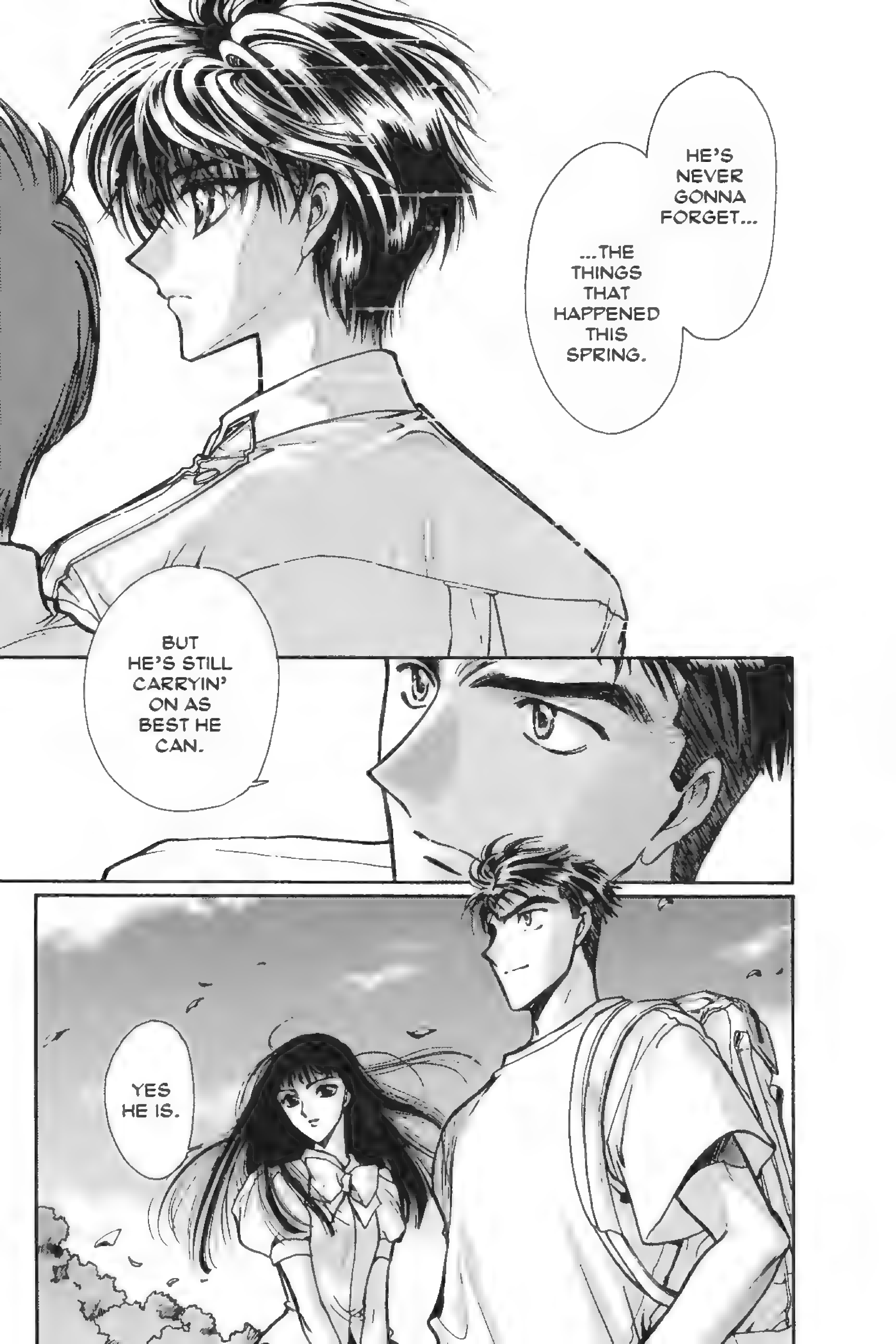

THMP
AWRIGHT, TIME FOR CHOW!
YEP! WE DON'T WANT TO BE LATE FOR SCHOOL.

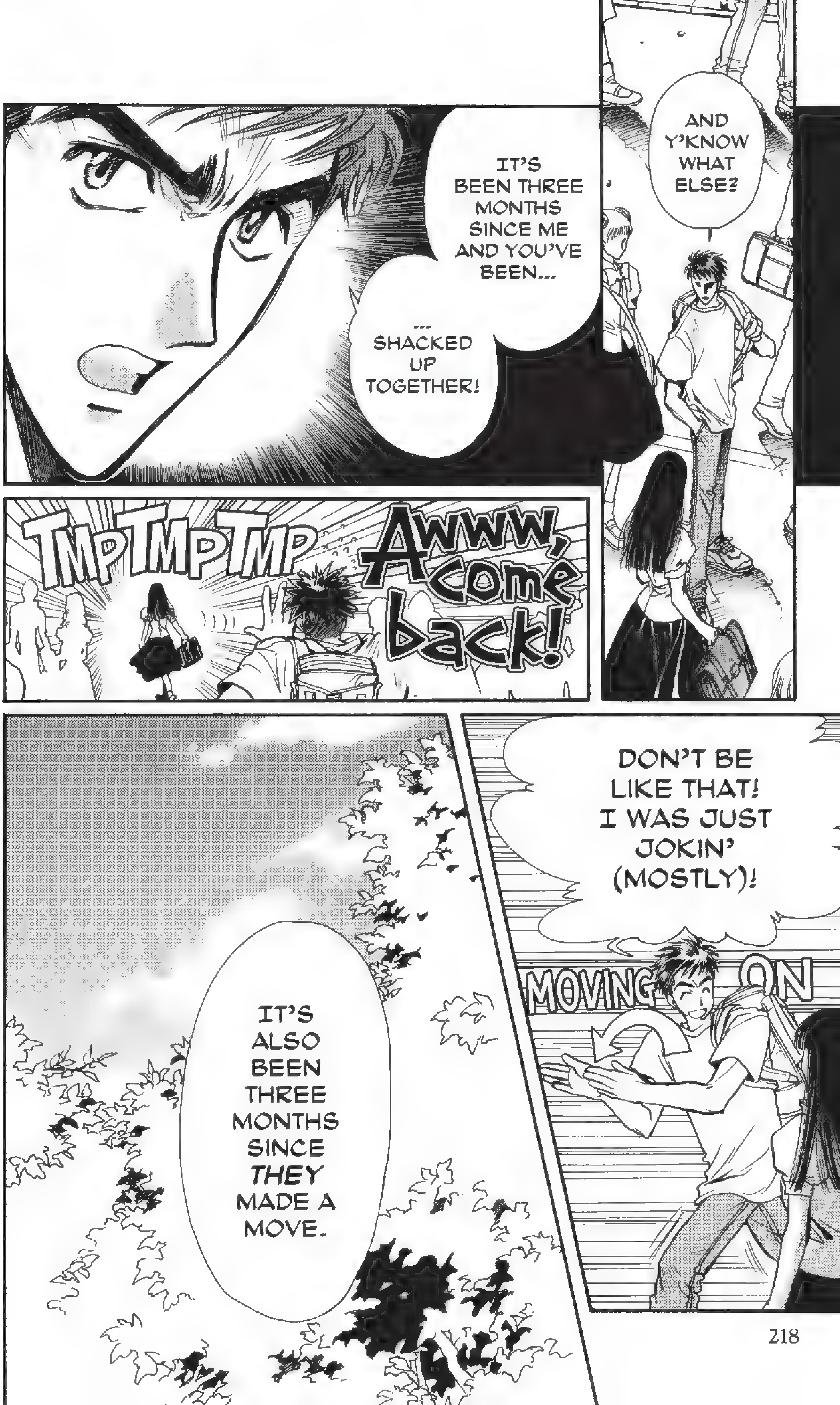

TNK
What are we having?
Sesame tofu, grilled fish, omelet.
And Missy made miso soup.
Kamui.
Remember this.

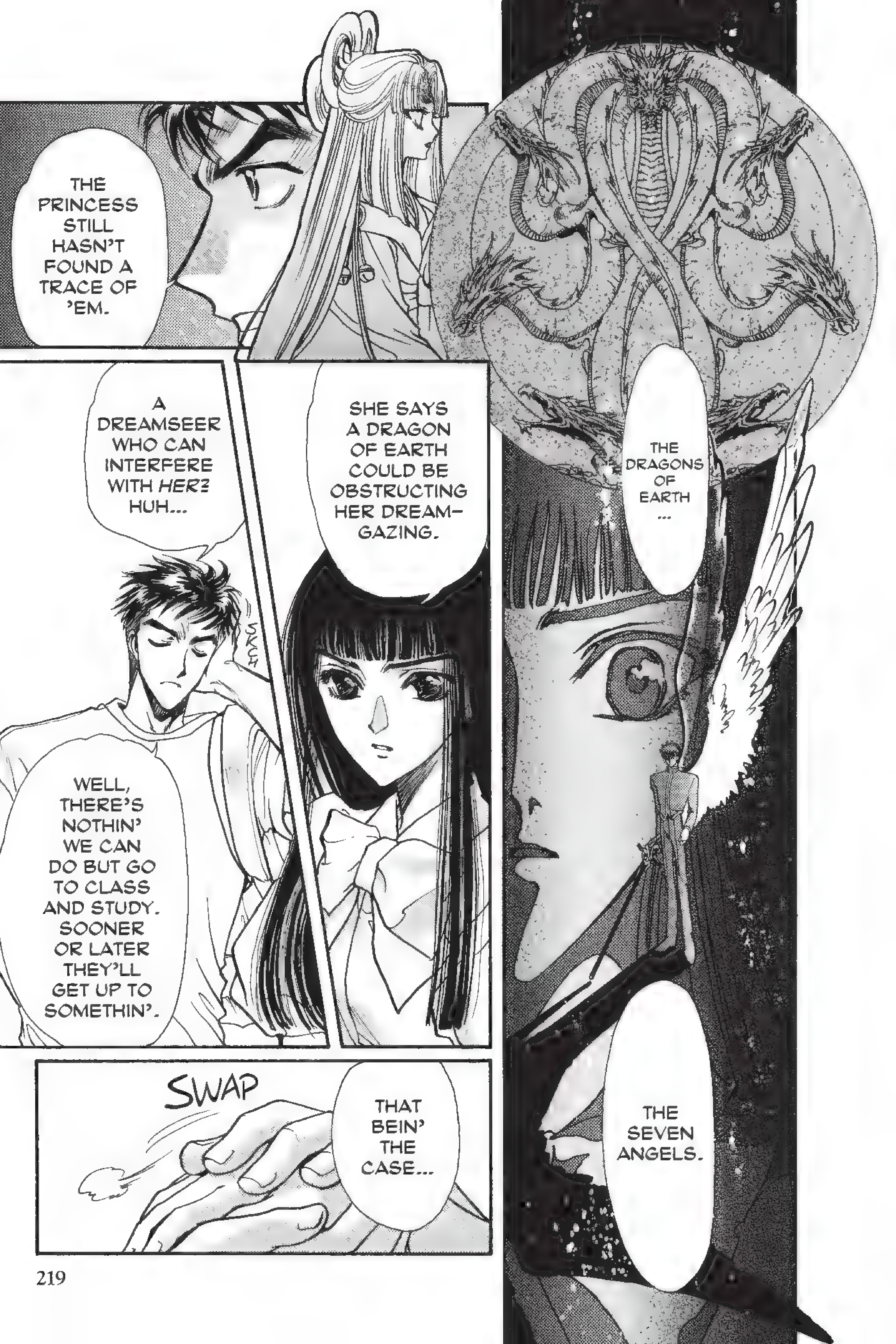

I am the one...
...who will kill you.

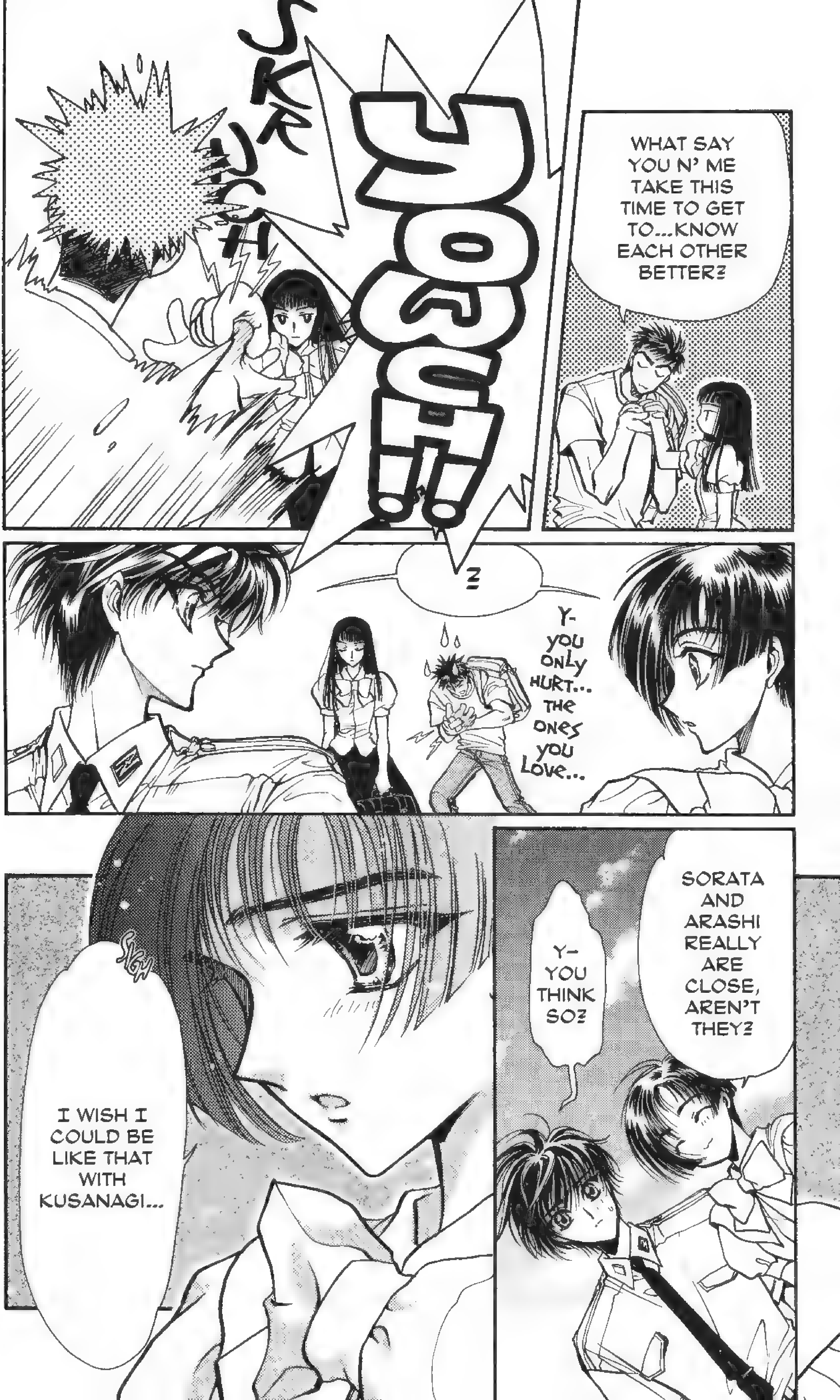

CLAMP ACADEMY
I MADE OUR LUNCHES TODAY!
IT'S CREAM CROQUETTES, YOUR FAVORITE!
BOUNCE
BOUNCE
YOU'LL TELL ME WHAT YOU THINK, RIGHT?
O-OKAY.

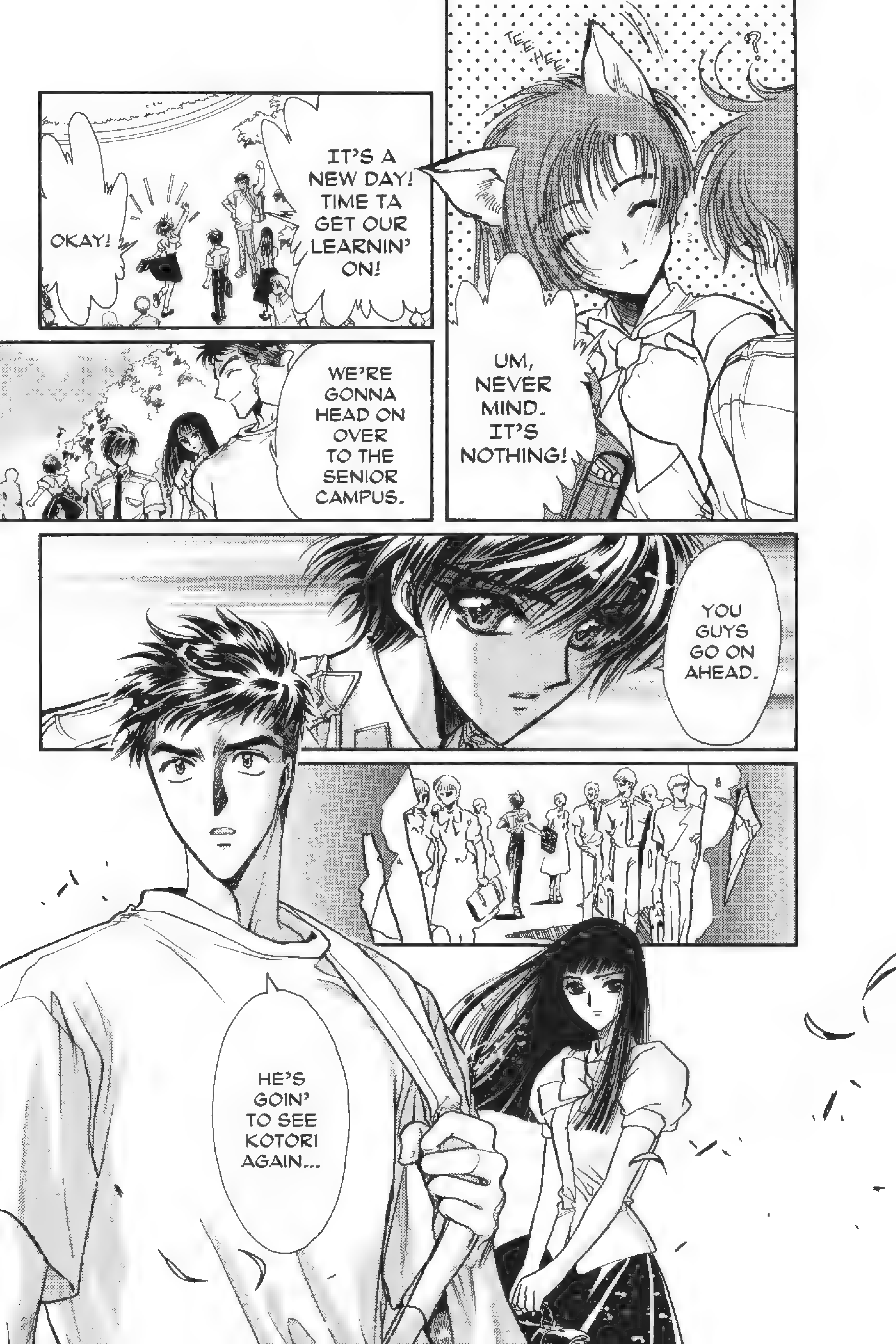

Arashi and Sorata are such great cooks! They're setting the bar high!
SEEMS LIKE HE'S DOIN' A LITTLE BETTER NOW, HUH?
YES.
HARD TO BELIEVE IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS ALREADY.

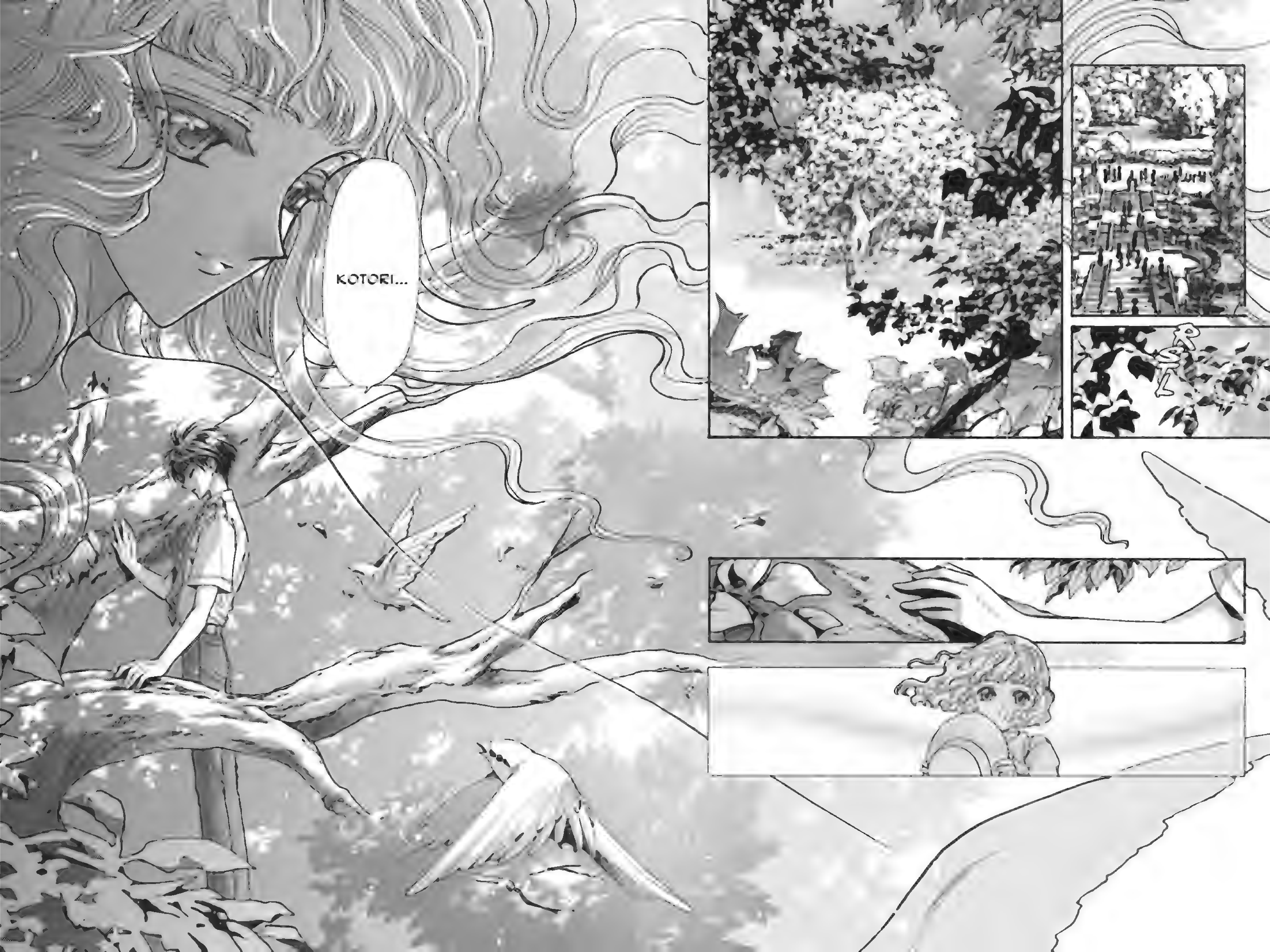

HE'S NEVER GONNA FORGET...
...THE THINGS THAT HAPPENED THIS SPRING.
BUT HE'S STILL CARRYIN' ON AS BEST HE CAN.
YES HE IS.

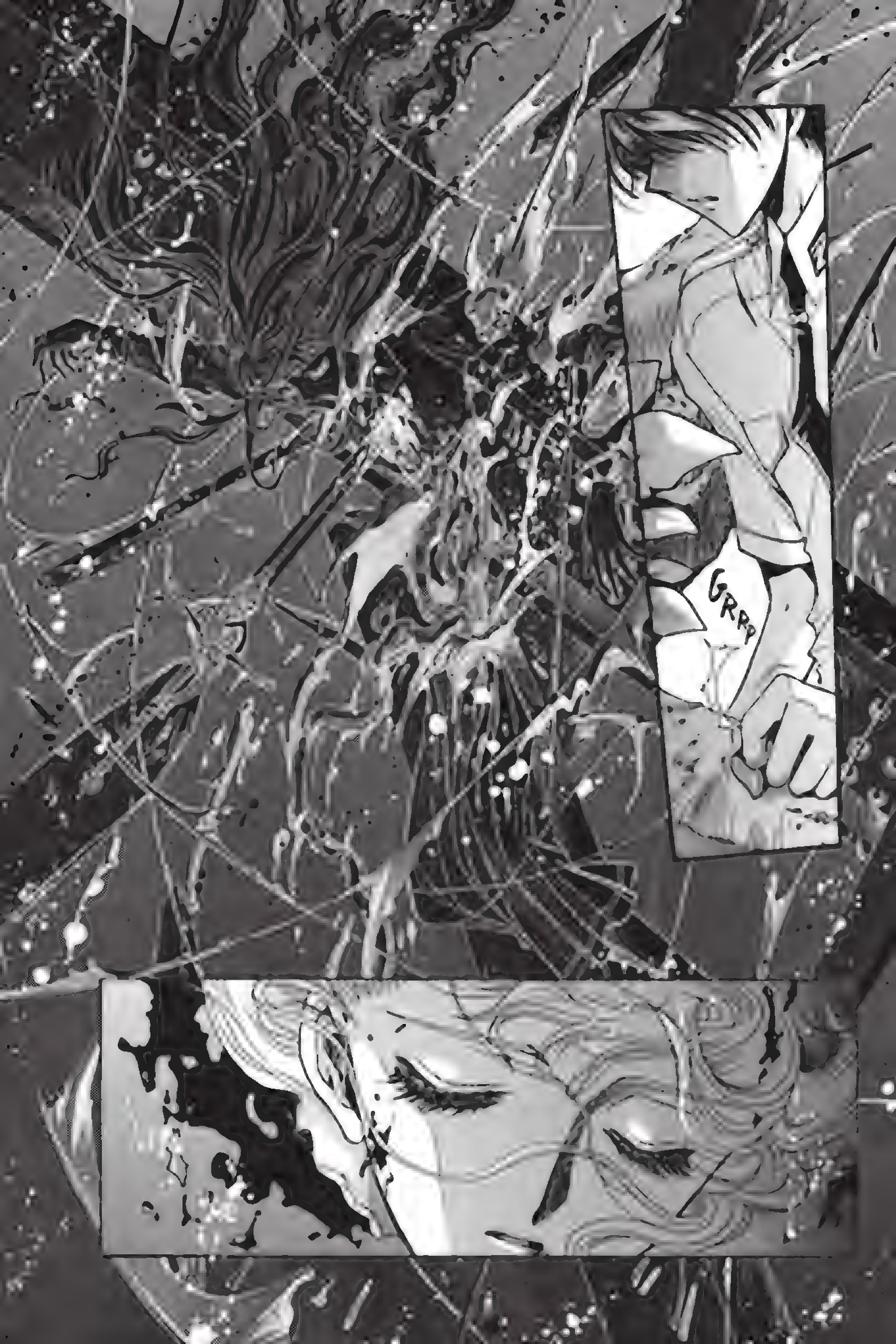

AND Y'KNOW WHAT ELSE?
IT'S BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE ME AND YOU'VE BEEN...
...SHACKED UP TOGETHER!
TMPTMPTMP
Awww, come back!
DON'T BE LIKE THAT! I WAS JUST JOKIN' (MOSTLY)!
MOVING ON
IT'S ALSO BEEN THREE MONTHS SINCE *THEY* MADE A MOVE.

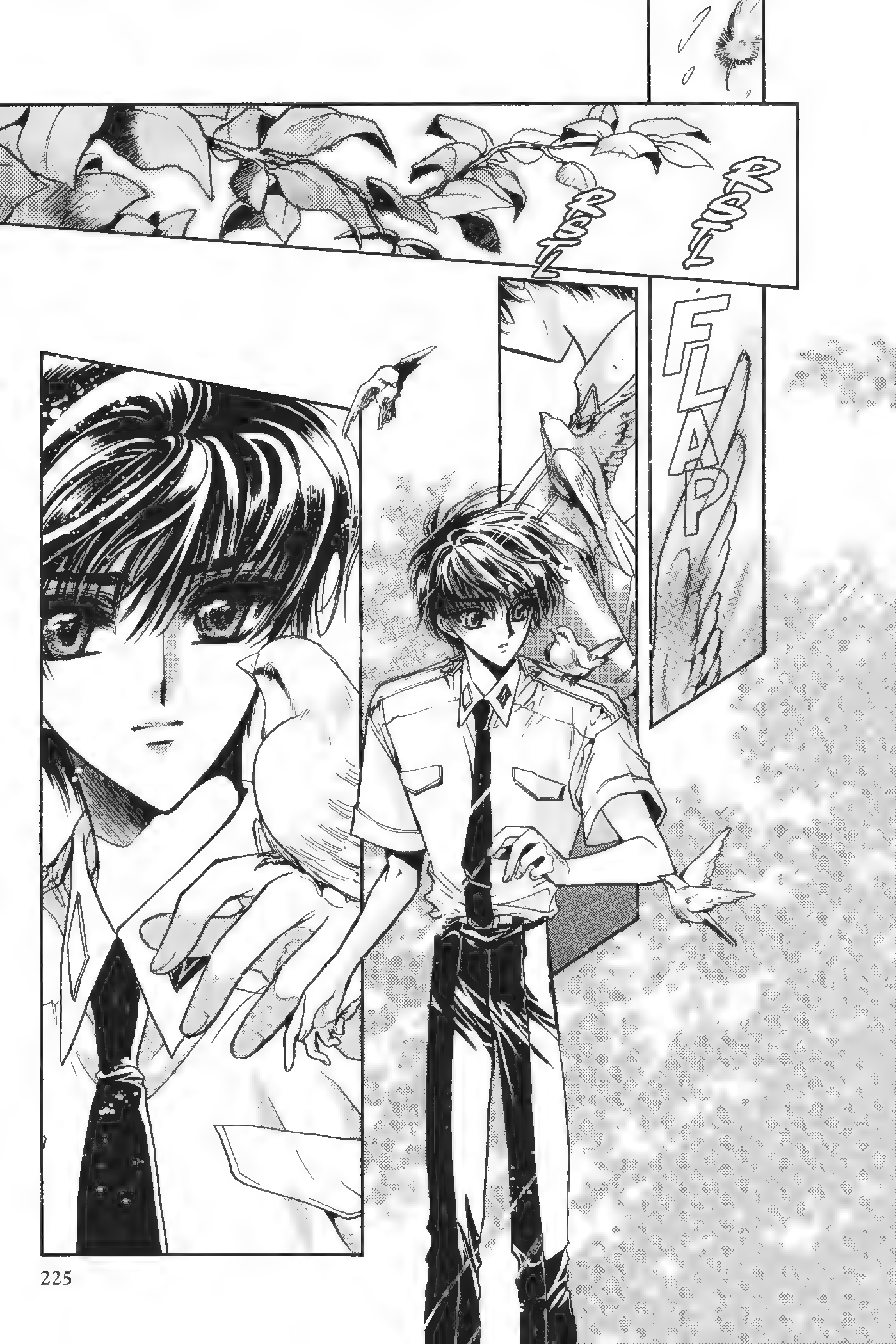

THE PRINCESS STILL HASN'T FOUND A TRACE OF 'EM.
SHE SAYS A DRAGON OF EARTH COULD BE OBSTRUCTING HER DREAM-GAZING.
A DREAMSEER WHO CAN INTERFERE WITH *HER*? HUH...
SKCH
WELL, THERE'S NOTHIN' WE CAN DO BUT GO TO CLASS AND STUDY. SOONER OR LATER THEY'LL GET UP TO SOMETHIN'.
SWAP
THAT BEIN' THE CASE...
THE DRAGONS OF EARTH...
THE SEVEN ANGELS.

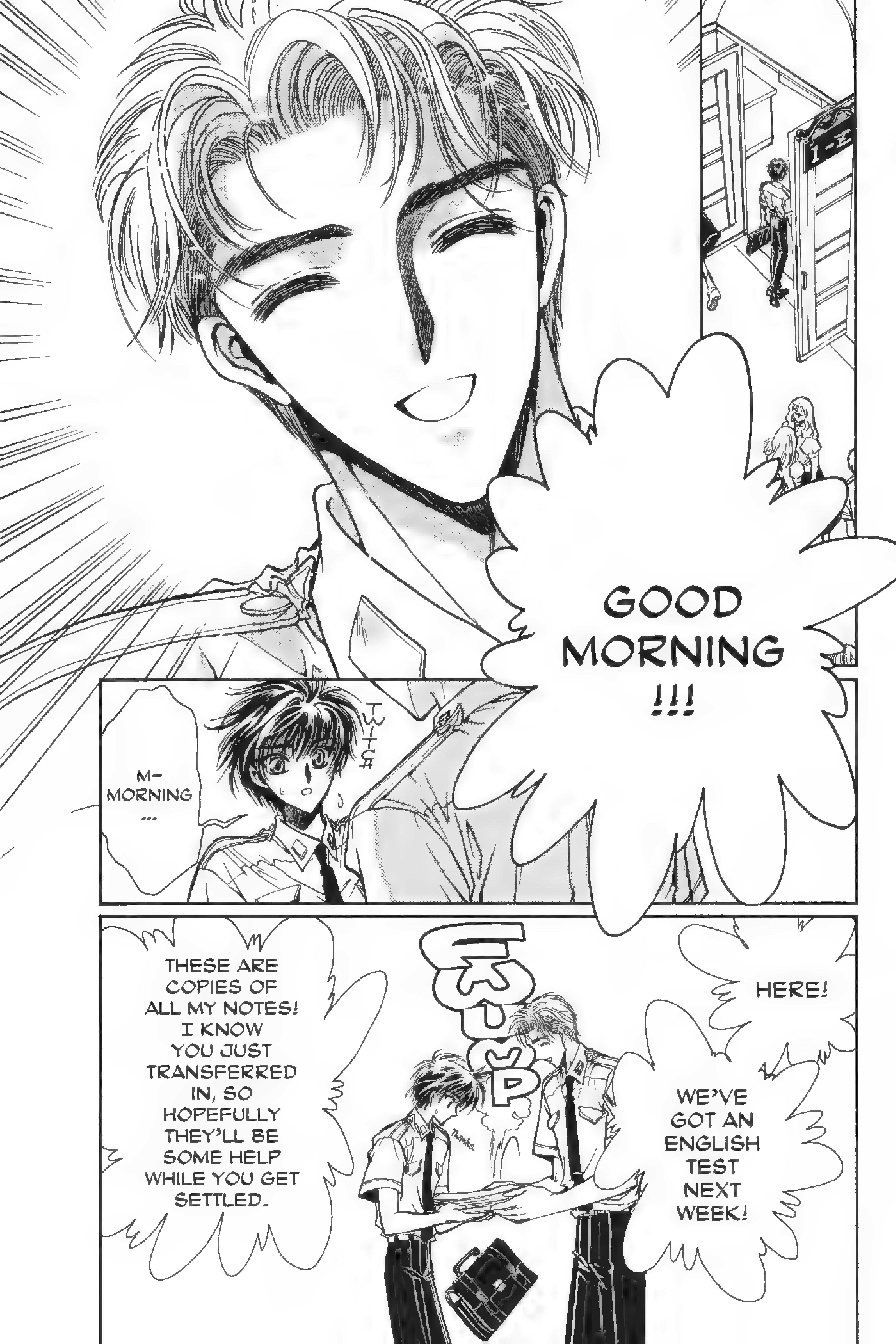

WHAT SAY YOU N' ME TAKE THIS TIME TO GET TO...KNOW EACH OTHER BETTER?
SKRUNCH
YOUCH!!
?
Y-YOU ONLY HURT... THE ONES YOU LOVE...
SORATA AND ARASHI REALLY ARE CLOSE, AREN'T THEY?
Y-YOU THINK SO?
SIGH
I WISH I COULD BE LIKE THAT WITH KUSANAGI...

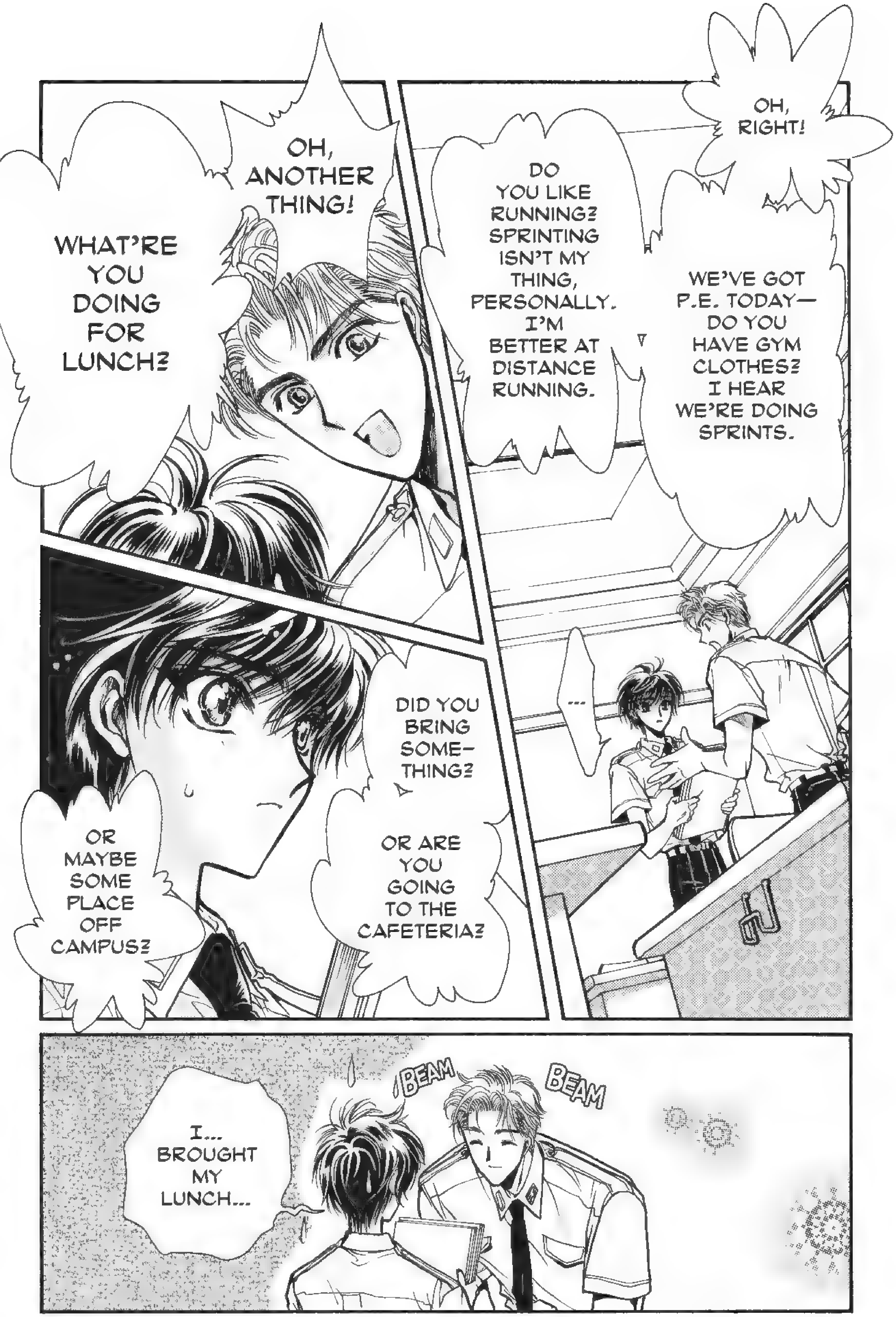

TEE HEE
?
UM, NEVER MIND. IT'S NOTHING!
IT'S A NEW DAY! TIME TA GET OUR LEARNIN' ON!
OKAY!
WE'RE GONNA HEAD ON OVER TO THE SENIOR CAMPUS.
YOU GUYS GO ON AHEAD.
HE'S GOIN' TO SEE KOTORI AGAIN...

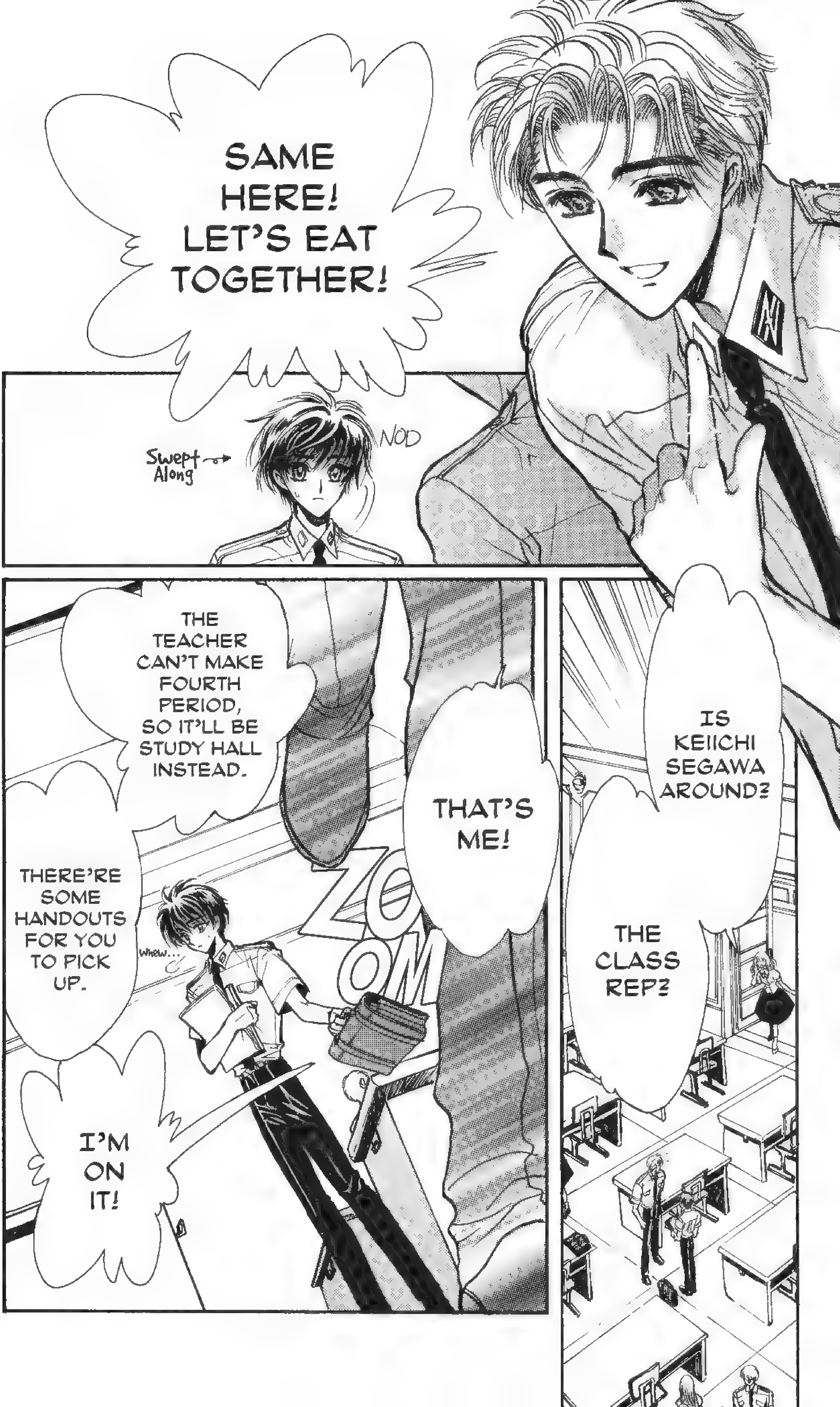

RSL
KOTORI...

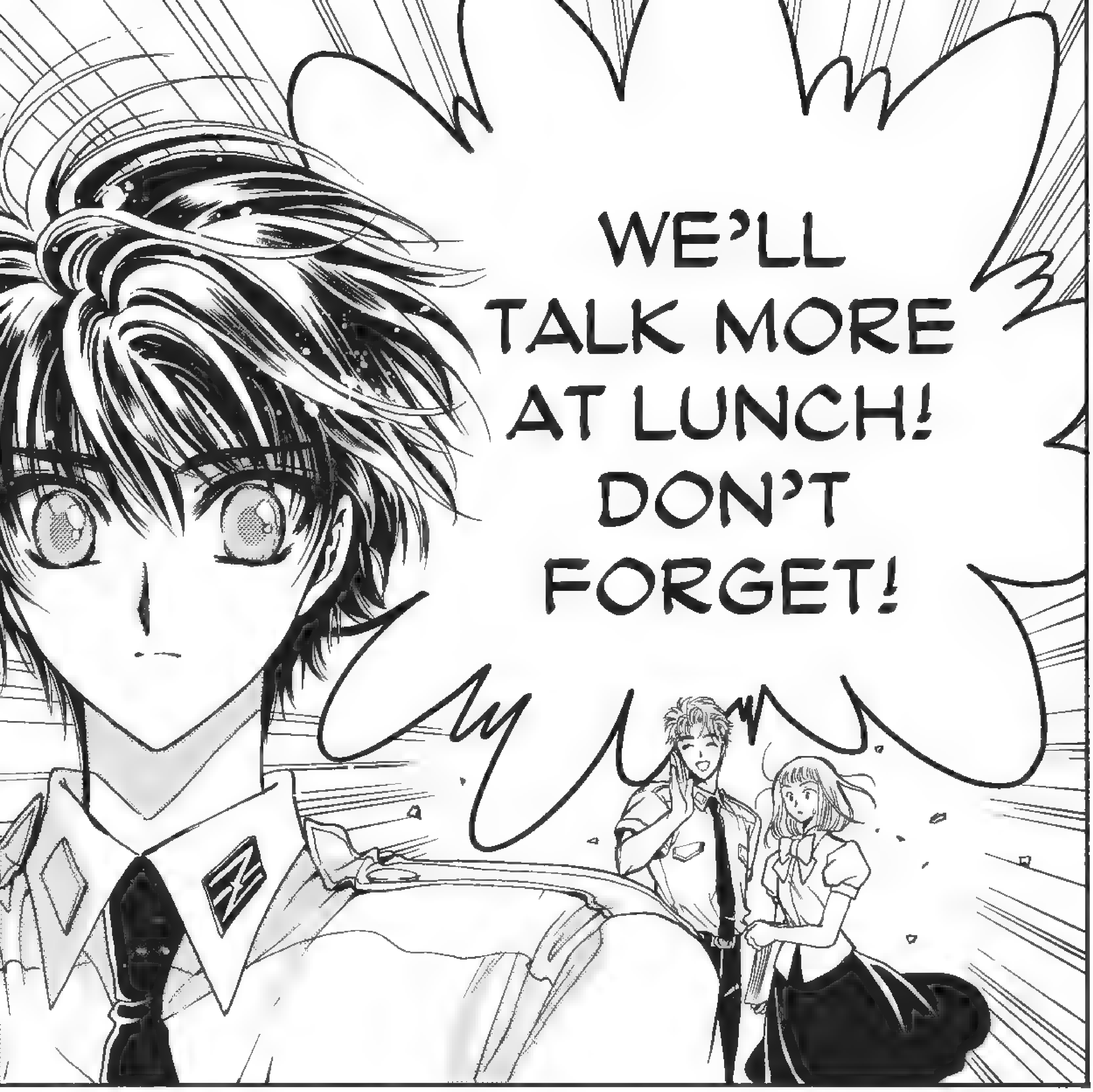

GRPP

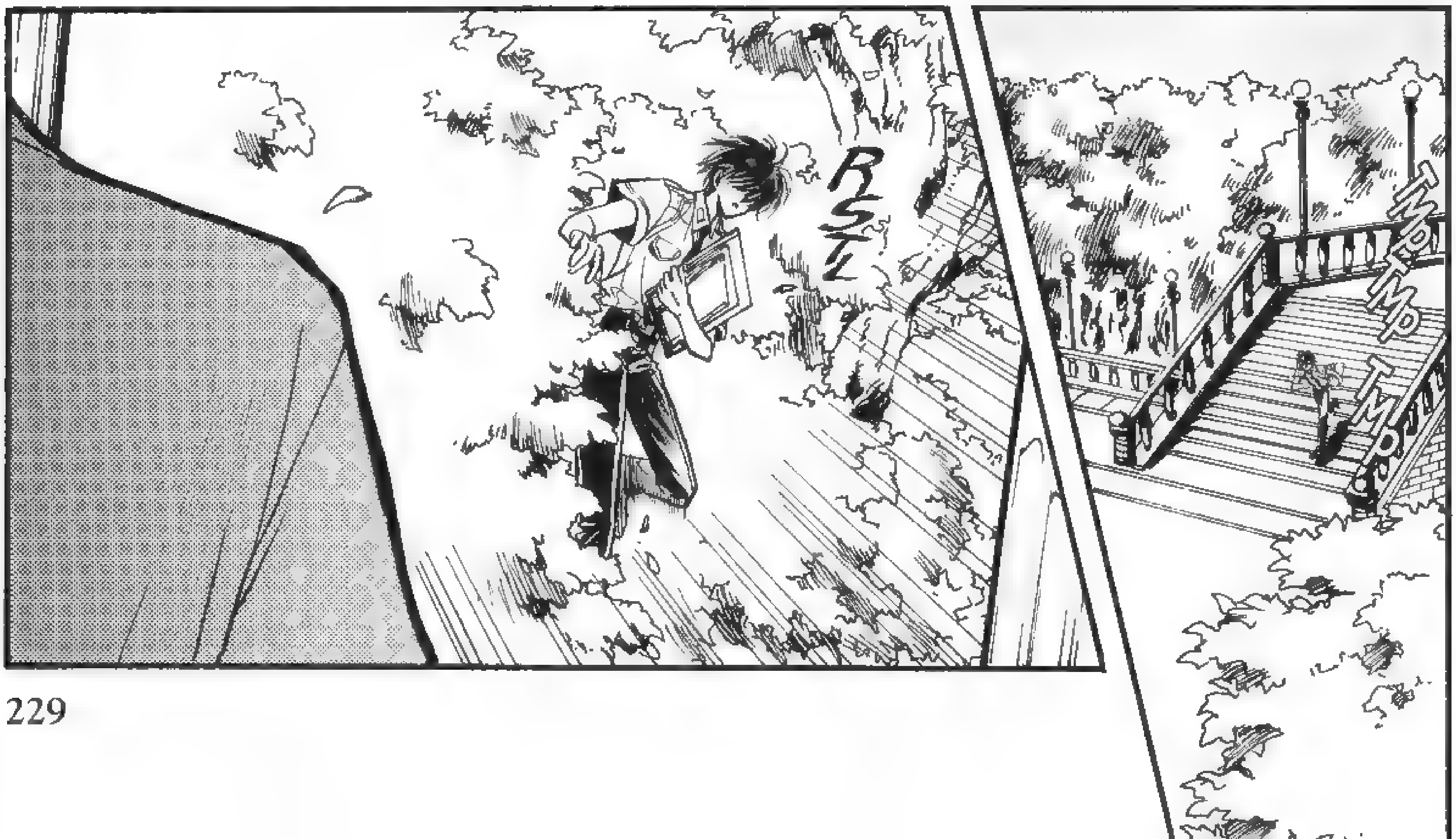

RSTL
RSTL
FLAP

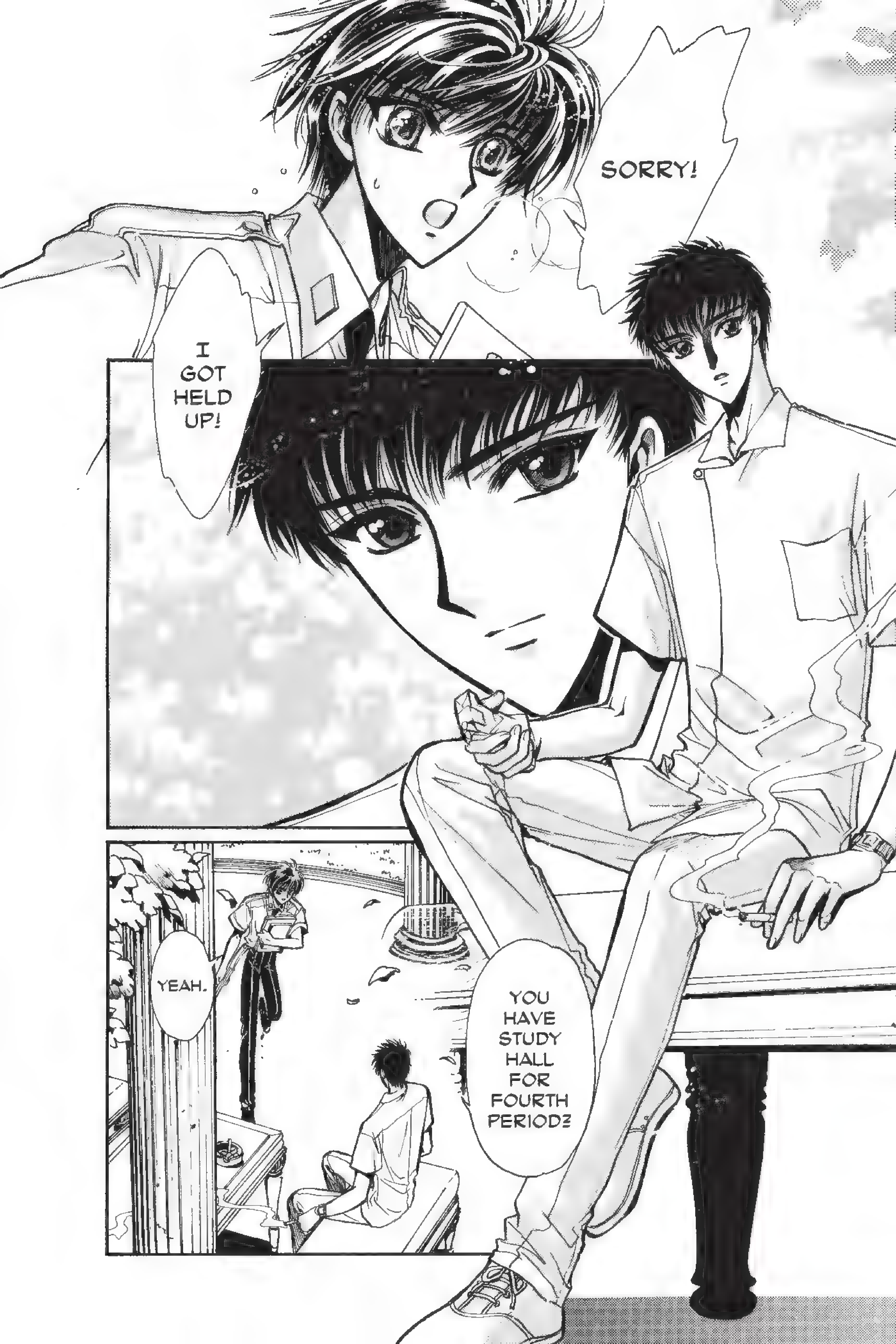

GOOD MORNING !!!
TWITCH
M-MORNING ...
HERE!
WE'VE GOT AN ENGLISH TEST NEXT WEEK!
FWUP
Thanks.
THESE ARE COPIES OF ALL MY NOTES! I KNOW YOU JUST TRANSFERRED IN, SO HOPEFULLY THEY'LL BE SOME HELP WHILE YOU GET SETTLED.

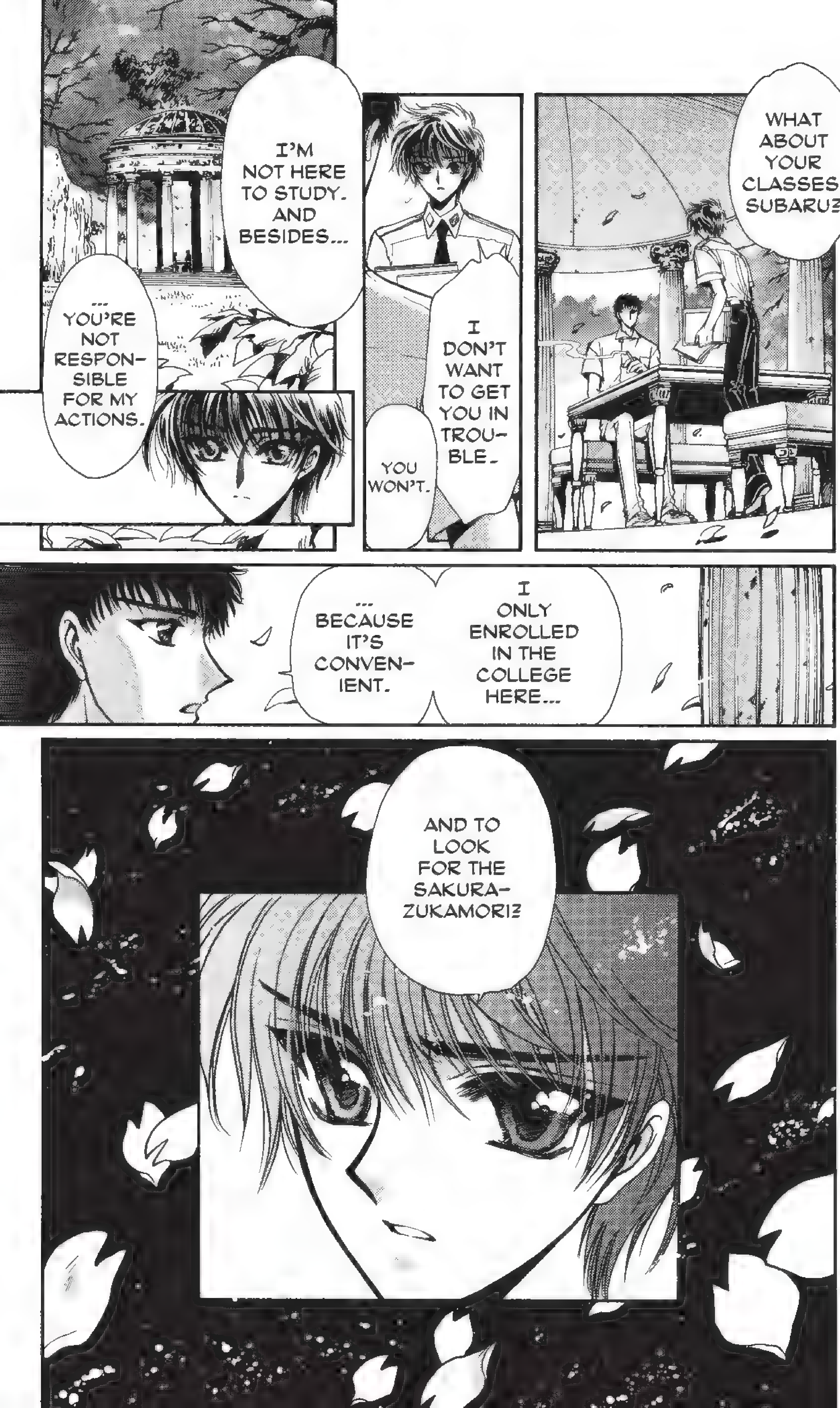

OH, RIGHT!
WE'VE GOT P.E. TODAY— DO YOU HAVE GYM CLOTHES? I HEAR WE'RE DOING SPRINTS.
DO YOU LIKE RUNNING? SPRINTING ISN'T MY THING, PERSONALLY. I'M BETTER AT DISTANCE RUNNING.
...
OH, ANOTHER THING!
WHAT'RE YOU DOING FOR LUNCH?
DID YOU BRING SOMETHING?
OR ARE YOU GOING TO THE CAFETERIA?
OR MAYBE SOME PLACE OFF CAMPUS?
BEAM
BEAM
I... BROUGHT MY LUNCH...

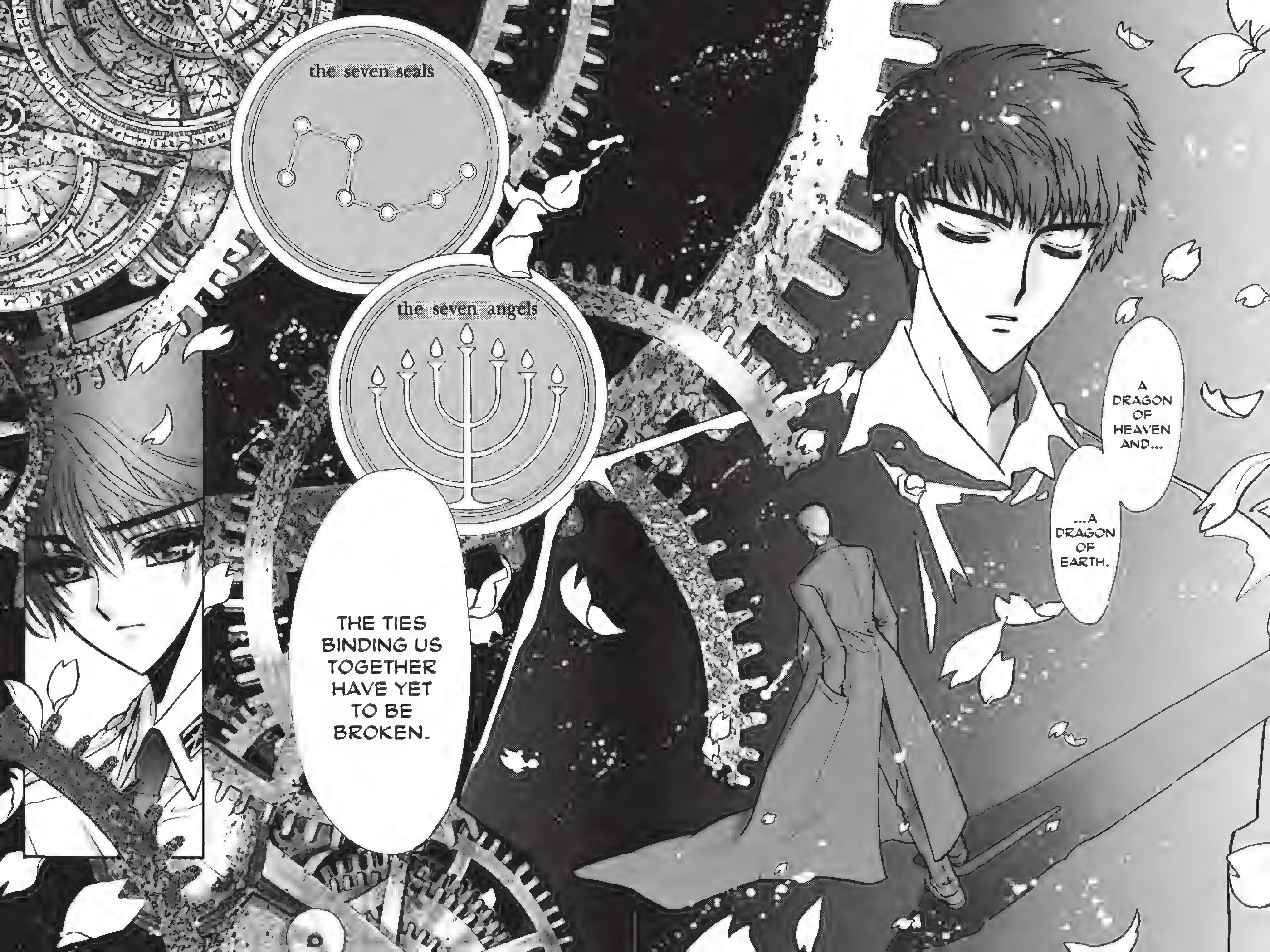

SAME HERE! LET'S EAT TOGETHER!
NOD
Swept Along
IS KEIICHI SEGAWA AROUND?
THE CLASS REP?
THAT'S ME!
THE TEACHER CAN'T MAKE FOURTH PERIOD, SO IT'LL BE STUDY HALL INSTEAD.
THERE'RE SOME HANDOUTS FOR YOU TO PICK UP.
ZOOM
Whew...
I'M ON IT!

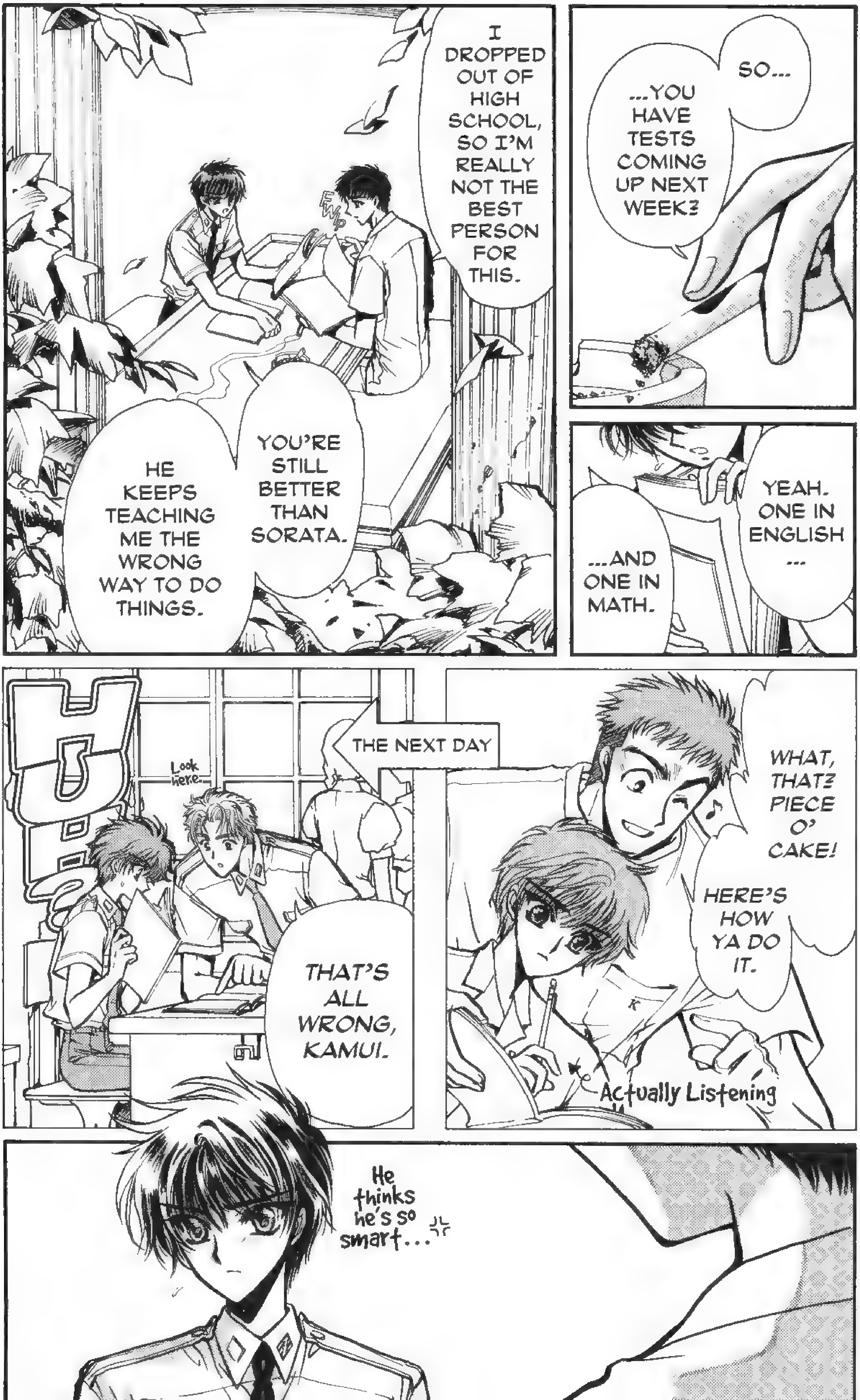

WE'LL TALK MORE AT LUNCH! DON'T FORGET!

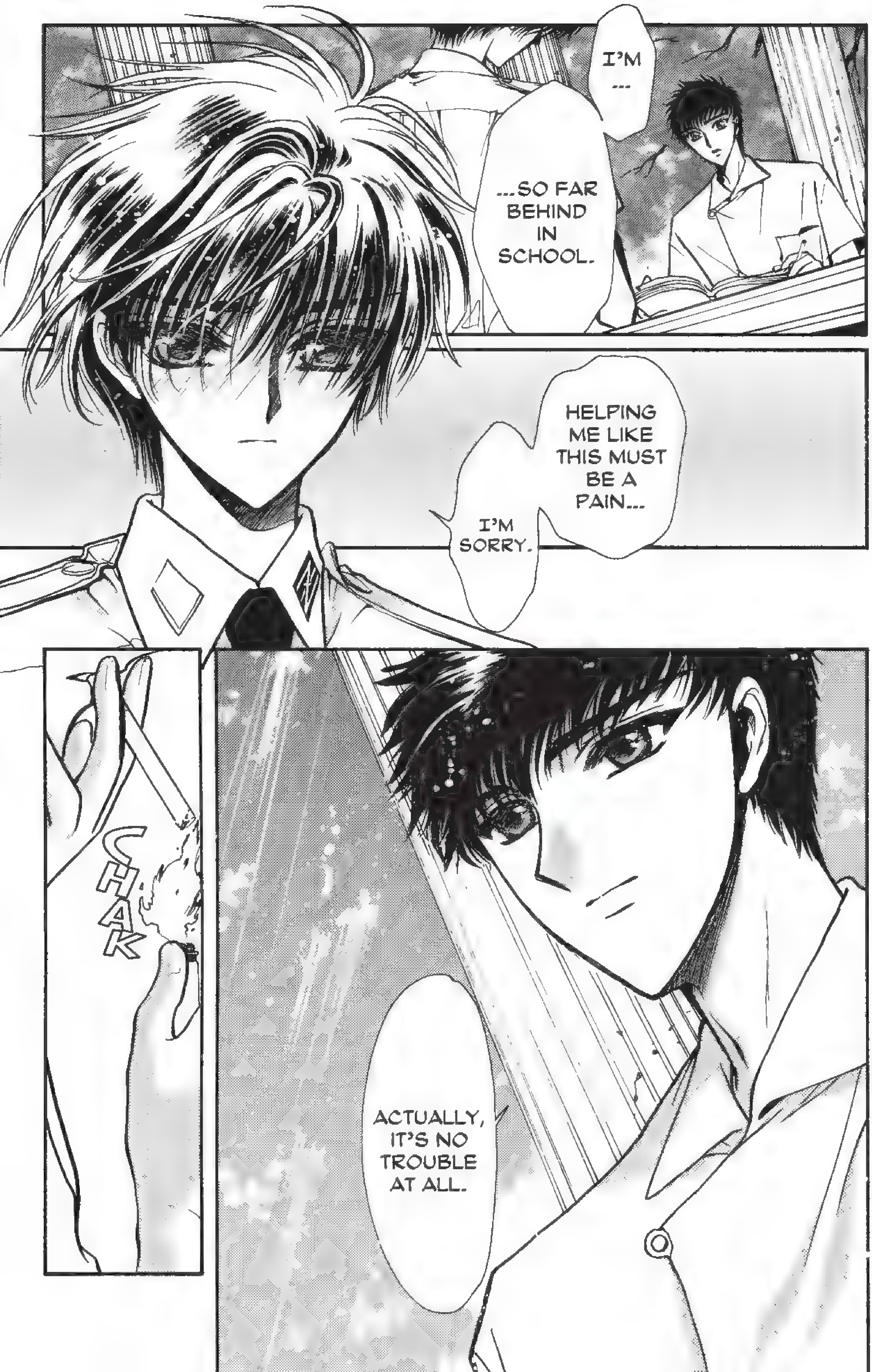

RSTL
TMP TMP TMP

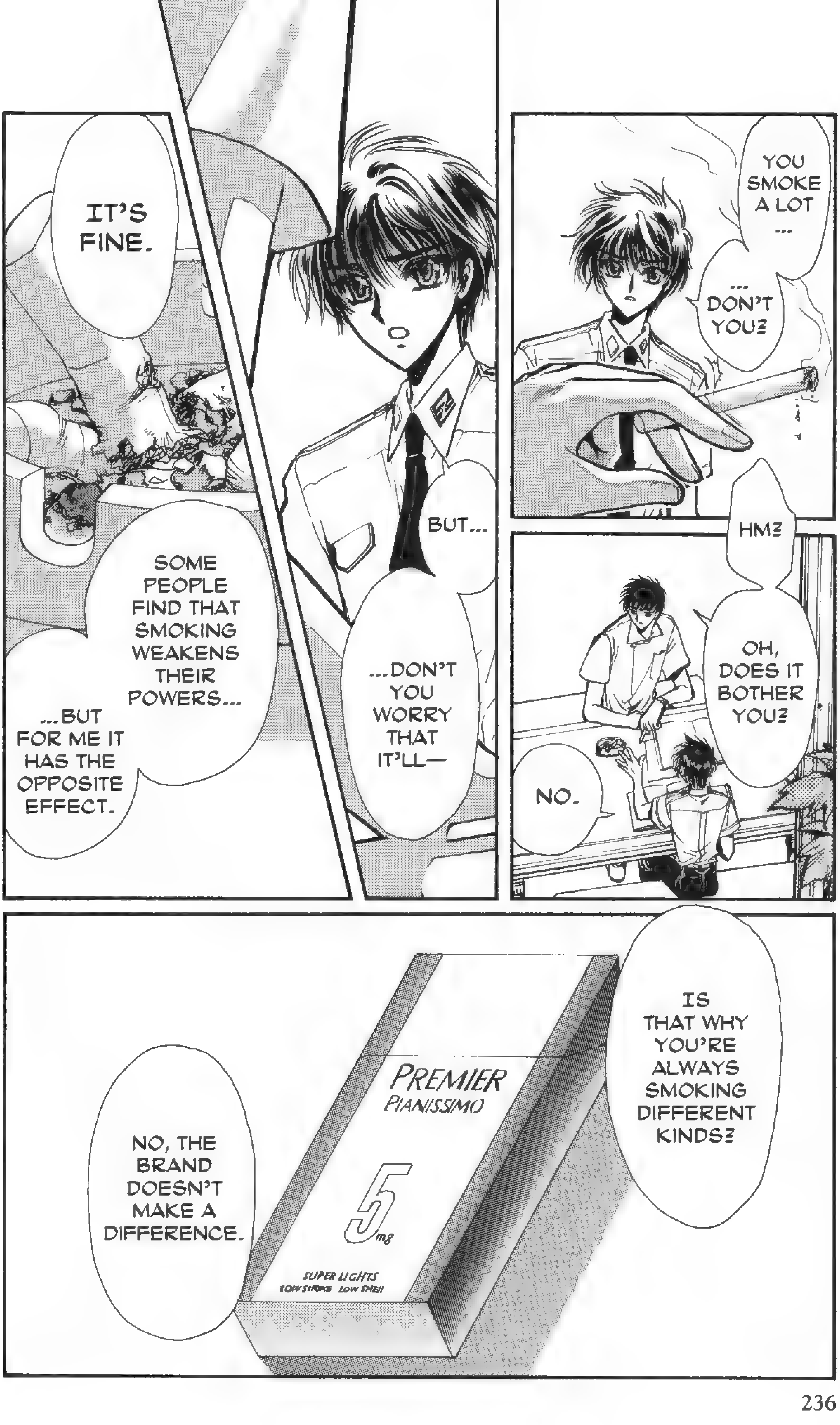

SORRY!
I GOT HELD UP!
YOU HAVE STUDY HALL FOR FOURTH PERIOD?
YEAH.

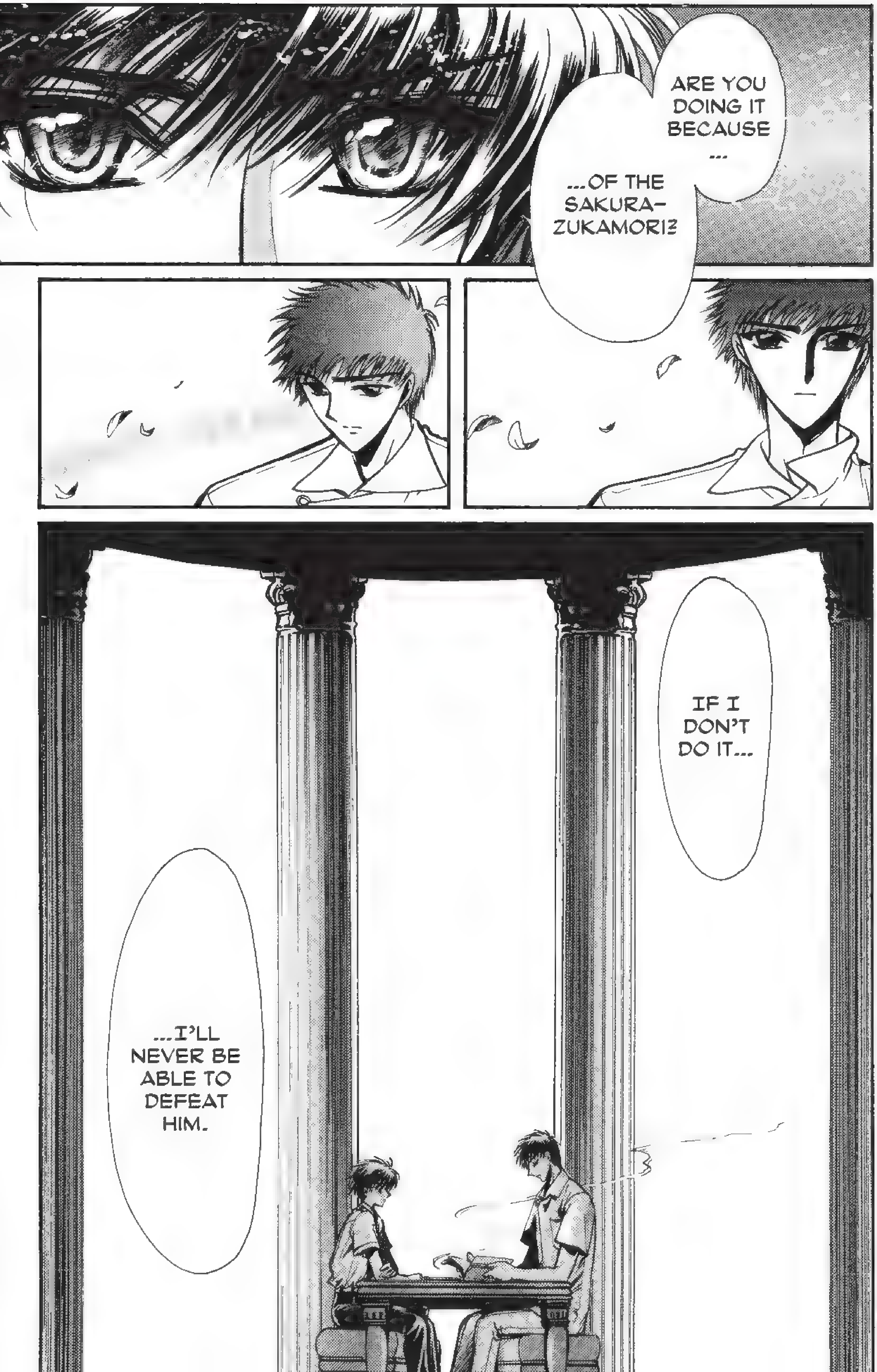

WHAT ABOUT YOUR CLASSES, SUBARU?
I DON'T WANT TO GET YOU IN TROUBLE.
YOU WON'T.
I'M NOT HERE TO STUDY. AND BESIDES...
...YOU'RE NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR MY ACTIONS.
I ONLY ENROLLED IN THE COLLEGE HERE...
...BECAUSE IT'S CONVENIENT.
AND TO LOOK FOR THE SAKURAZUKAMORI?

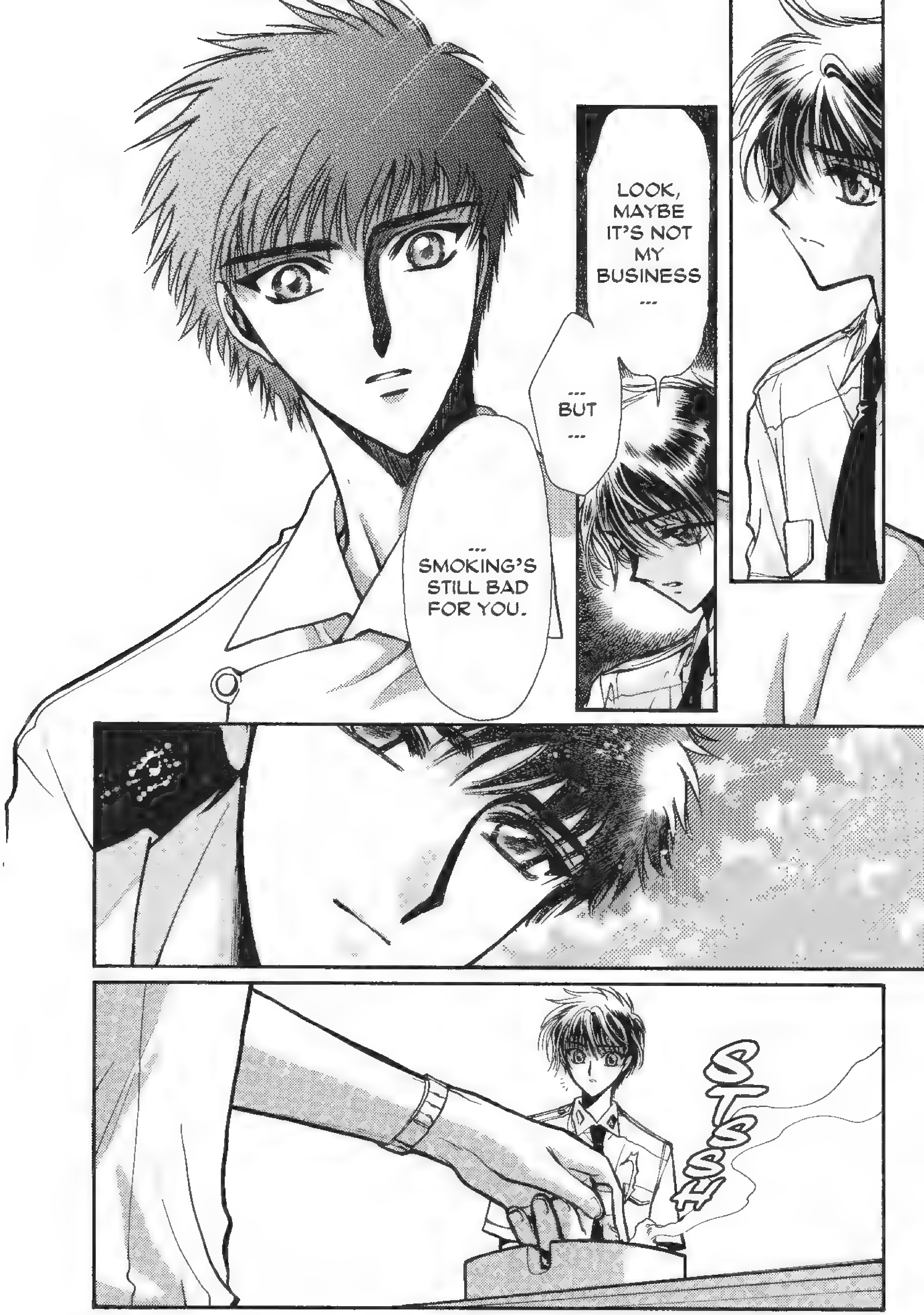

A DRAGON OF HEAVEN AND...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH.
the seven seals
the seven angels
THE TIES BINDING US TOGETHER HAVE YET TO BE BROKEN.

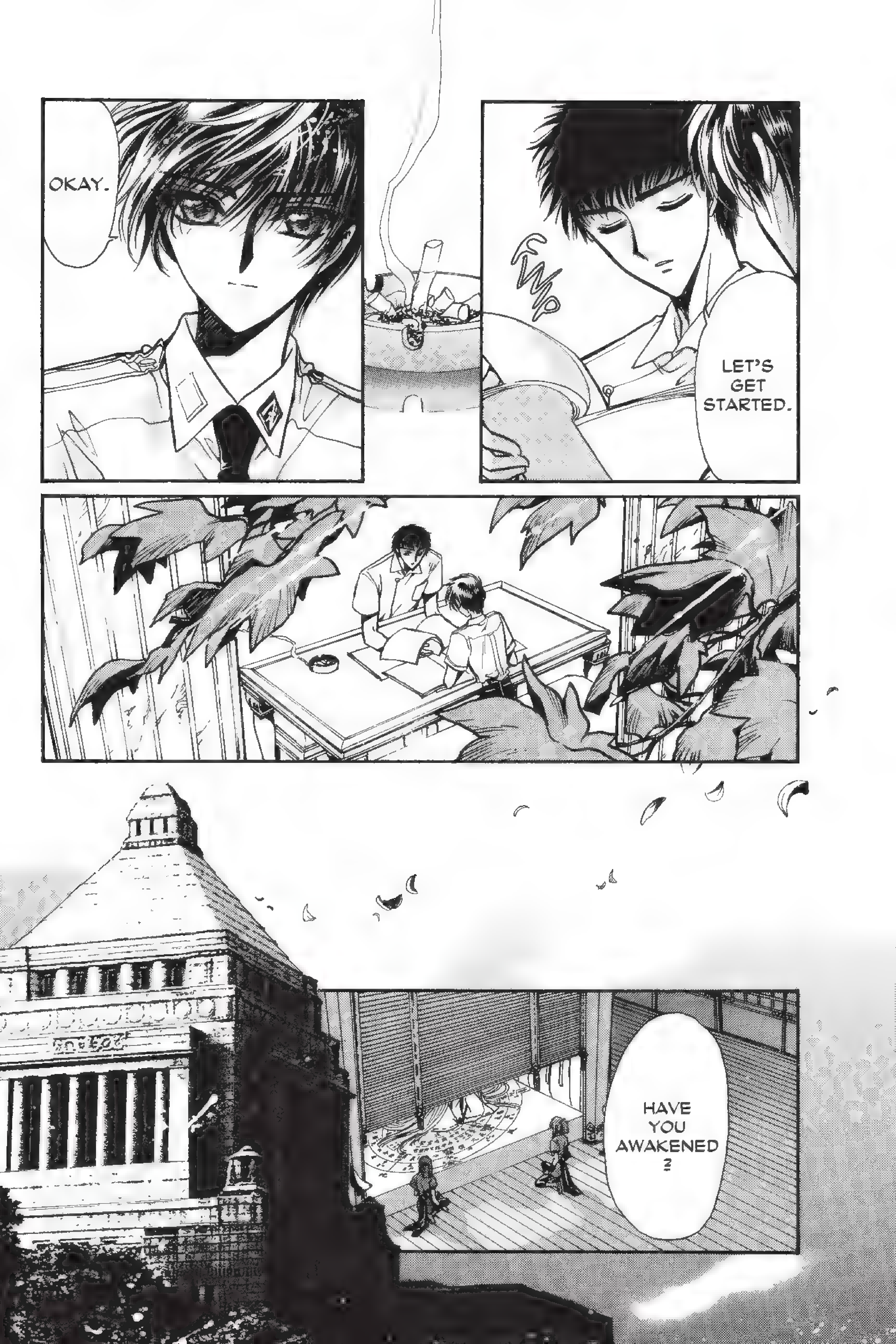

SO...
...YOU HAVE TESTS COMING UP NEXT WEEK?
YEAH. ONE IN ENGLISH...
...AND ONE IN MATH.
I DROPPED OUT OF HIGH SCHOOL, SO I'M REALLY NOT THE BEST PERSON FOR THIS.
FWIP
YOU'RE STILL BETTER THAN SORATA.
HE KEEPS TEACHING ME THE WRONG WAY TO DO THINGS.
WHAT, THAT? PIECE O' CAKE!
HERE'S HOW YA DO IT.
Actually Listening
THE NEXT DAY
Look here..
THAT'S ALL WRONG, KAMUI.
He thinks he's so smart...

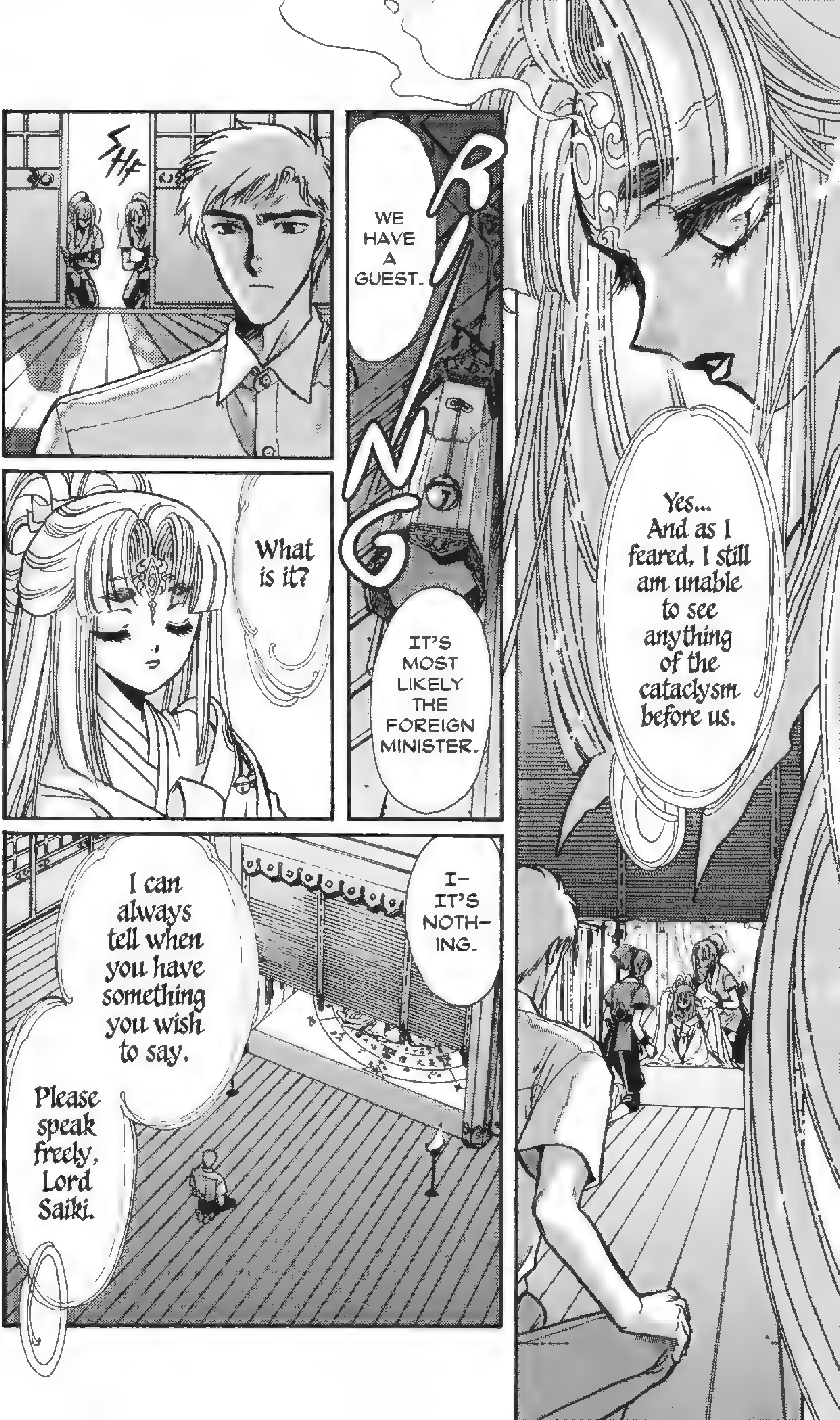

I'M ...
...SO FAR BEHIND IN SCHOOL.
HELPING ME LIKE THIS MUST BE A PAIN...
I'M SORRY.
CHAK
ACTUALLY, IT'S NO TROUBLE AT ALL.

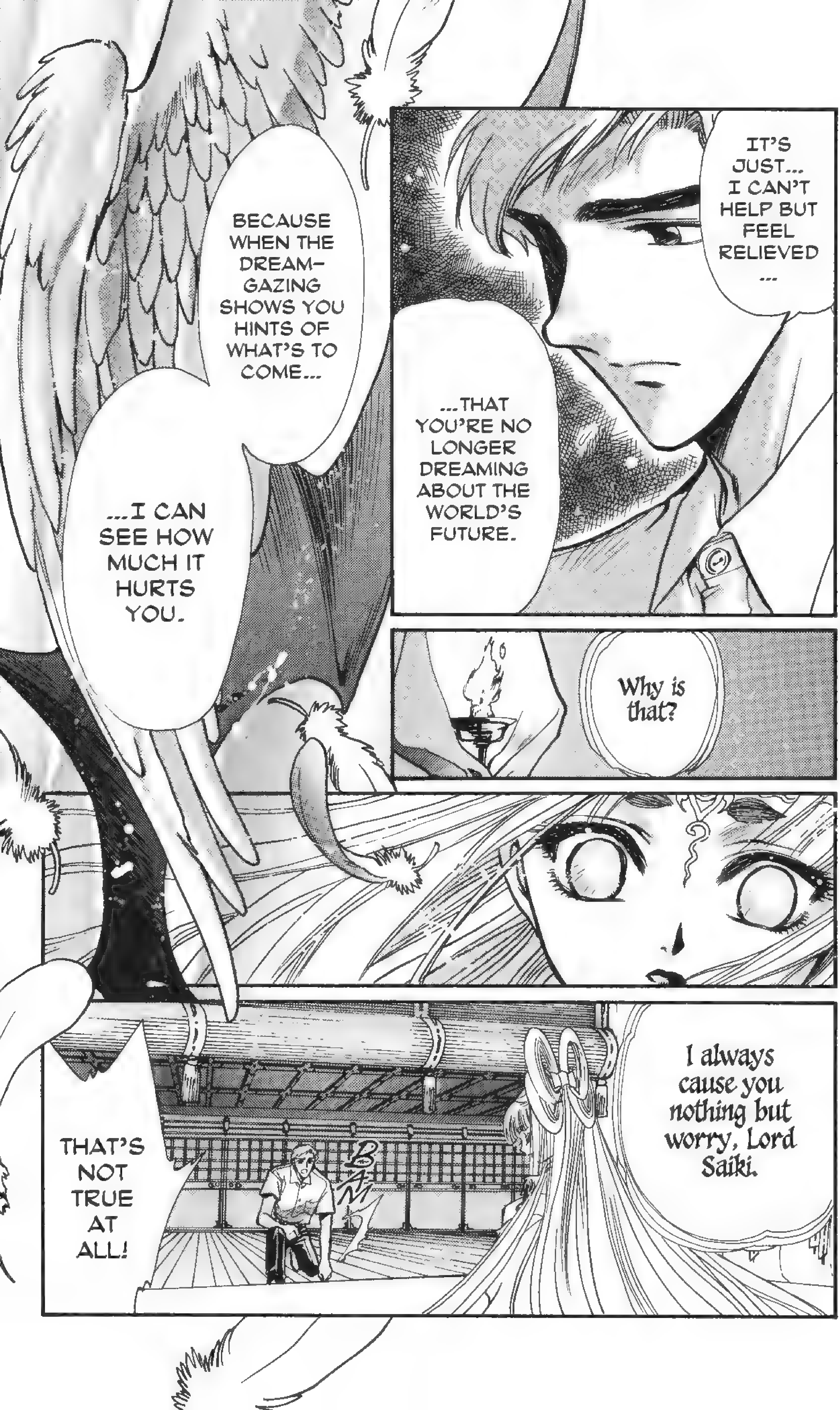

YOU SMOKE A LOT ...
... DON'T YOU?
HM?
OH, DOES IT BOTHER YOU?
NO.
BUT...
...DON'T YOU WORRY THAT IT'LL—
IT'S FINE.
SOME PEOPLE FIND THAT SMOKING WEAKENS THEIR POWERS...
...BUT FOR ME IT HAS THE OPPOSITE EFFECT.
IS THAT WHY YOU'RE ALWAYS SMOKING DIFFERENT KINDS?
PREMIER PIANISSIMO
5 mg
SUPER LIGHTS
LOW SMOKE LOW SMELL
NO, THE BRAND DOESN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

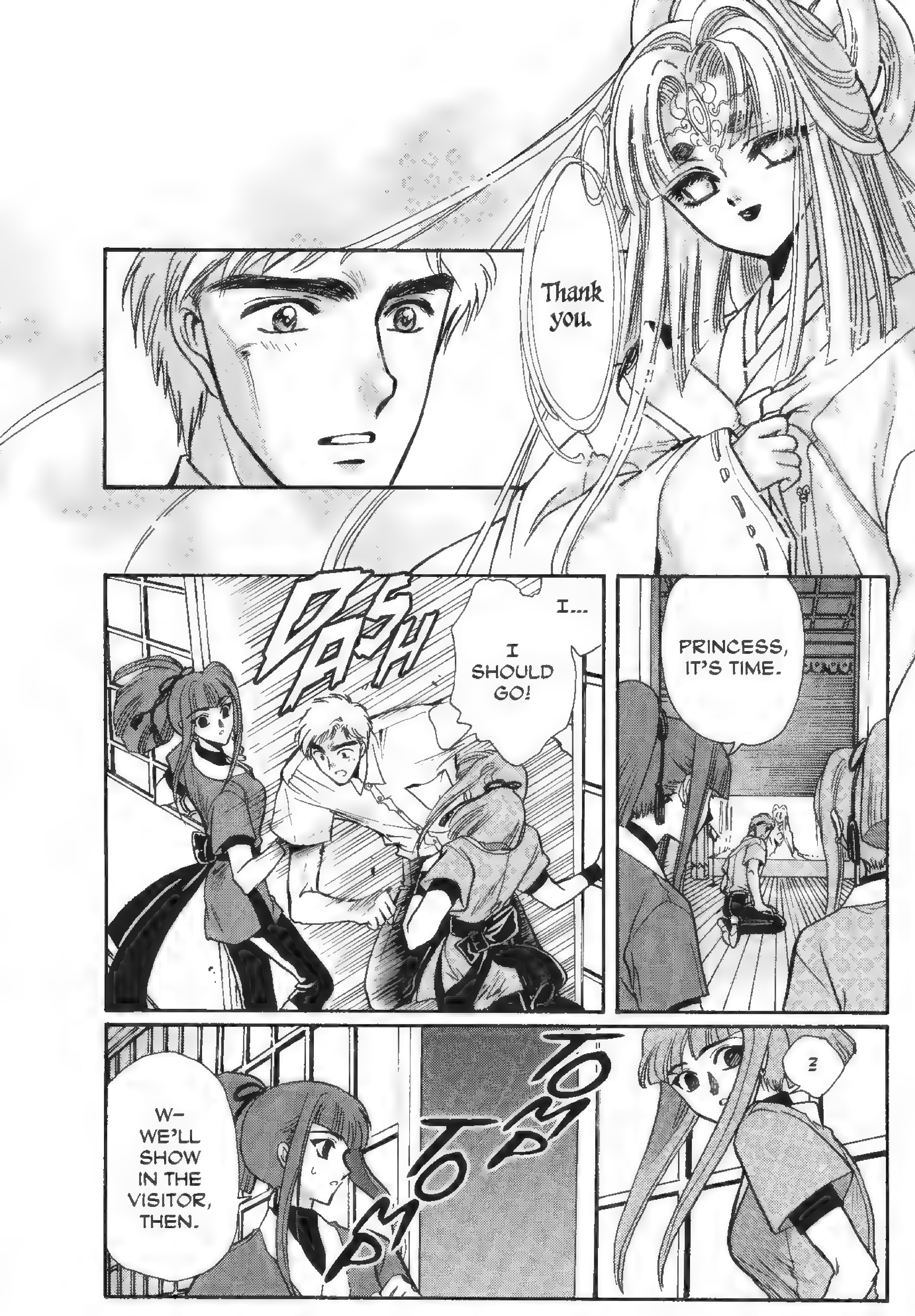

ARE YOU DOING IT BECAUSE ...
...OF THE SAKURAZUKAMORI?
IF I DON'T DO IT...
...I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO DEFEAT HIM.

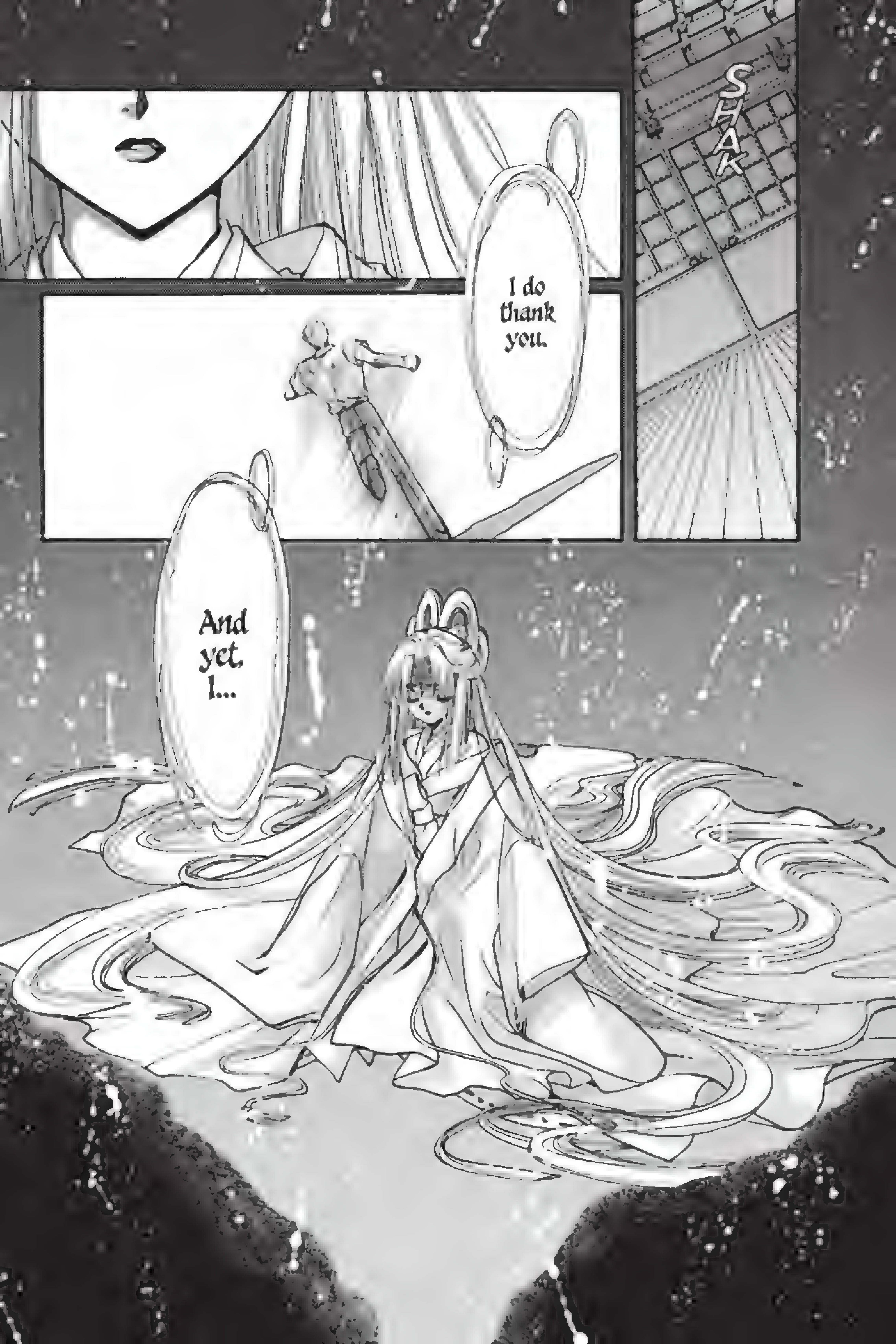

LOOK, MAYBE IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS ...
... BUT ...
... SMOKING'S STILL BAD FOR YOU.
STSSH

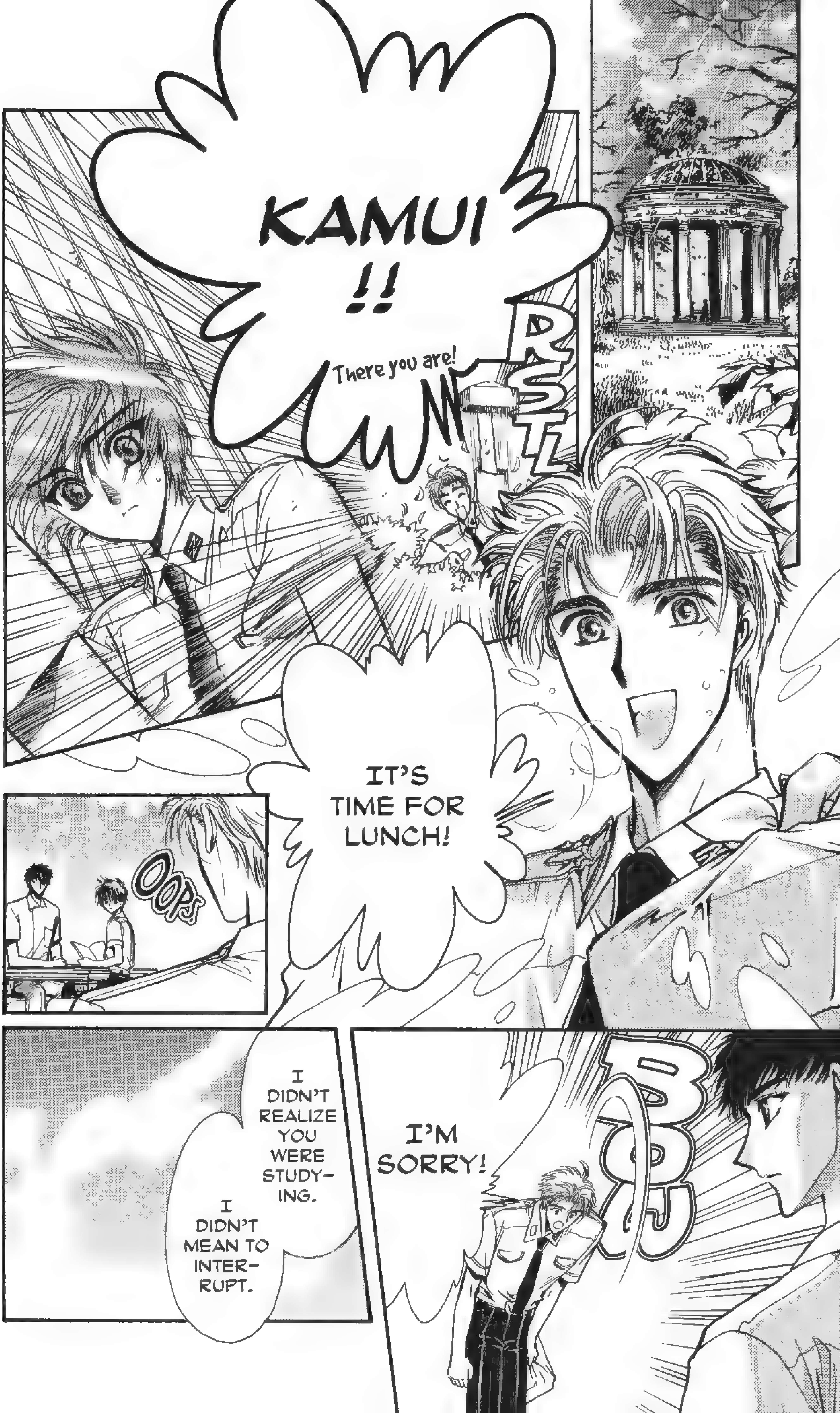

FWIP
LET'S GET STARTED.
OKAY.
HAVE YOU AWAKENED?

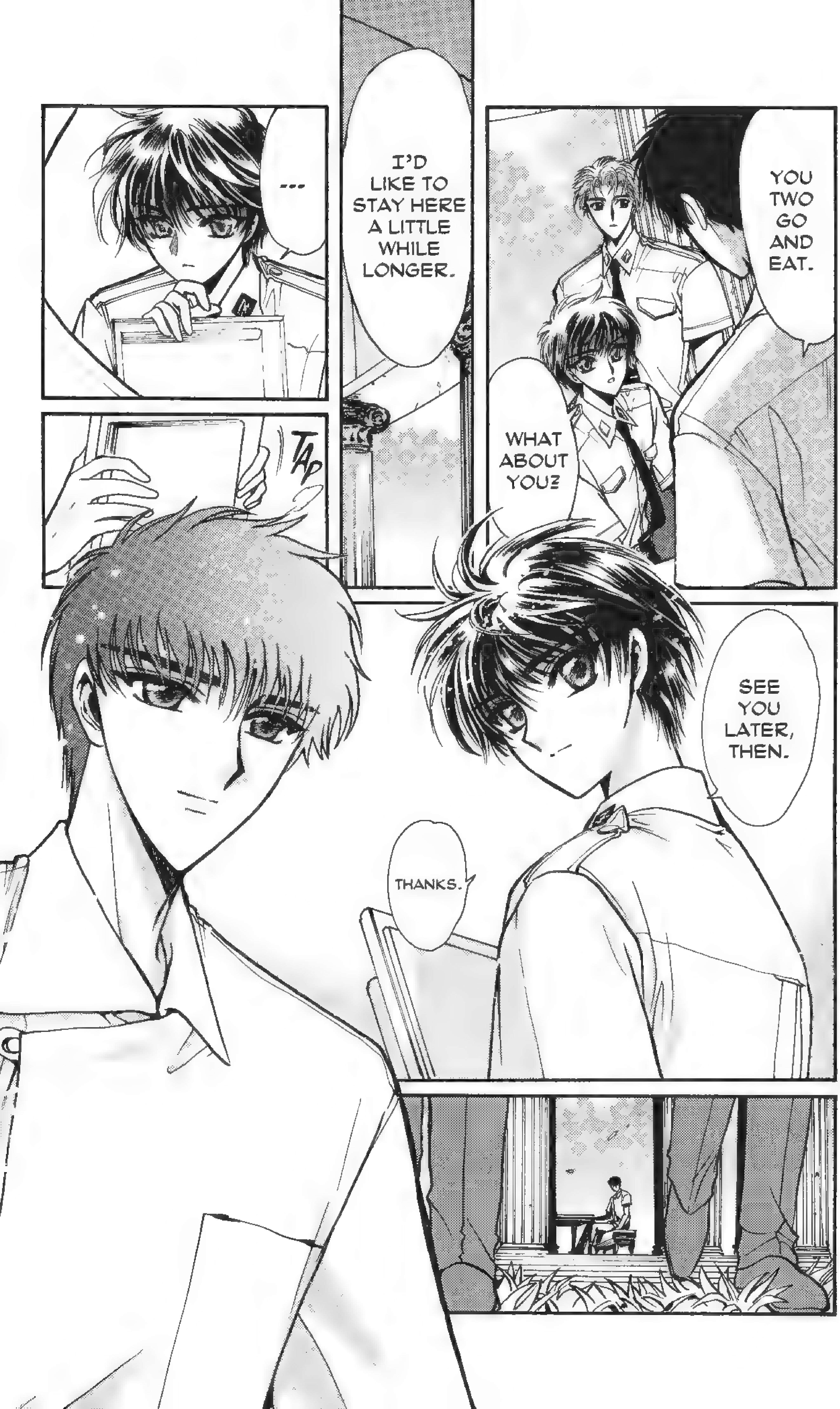

Yes... And as I feared, I still am unable to see anything of the cataclysm before us.
RIIING
WE HAVE A GUEST.
SHF
IT'S MOST LIKELY THE FOREIGN MINISTER.
What is it?
I-IT'S NOTHING.
I can always tell when you have something you wish to say.
Please speak freely, Lord Saiki.

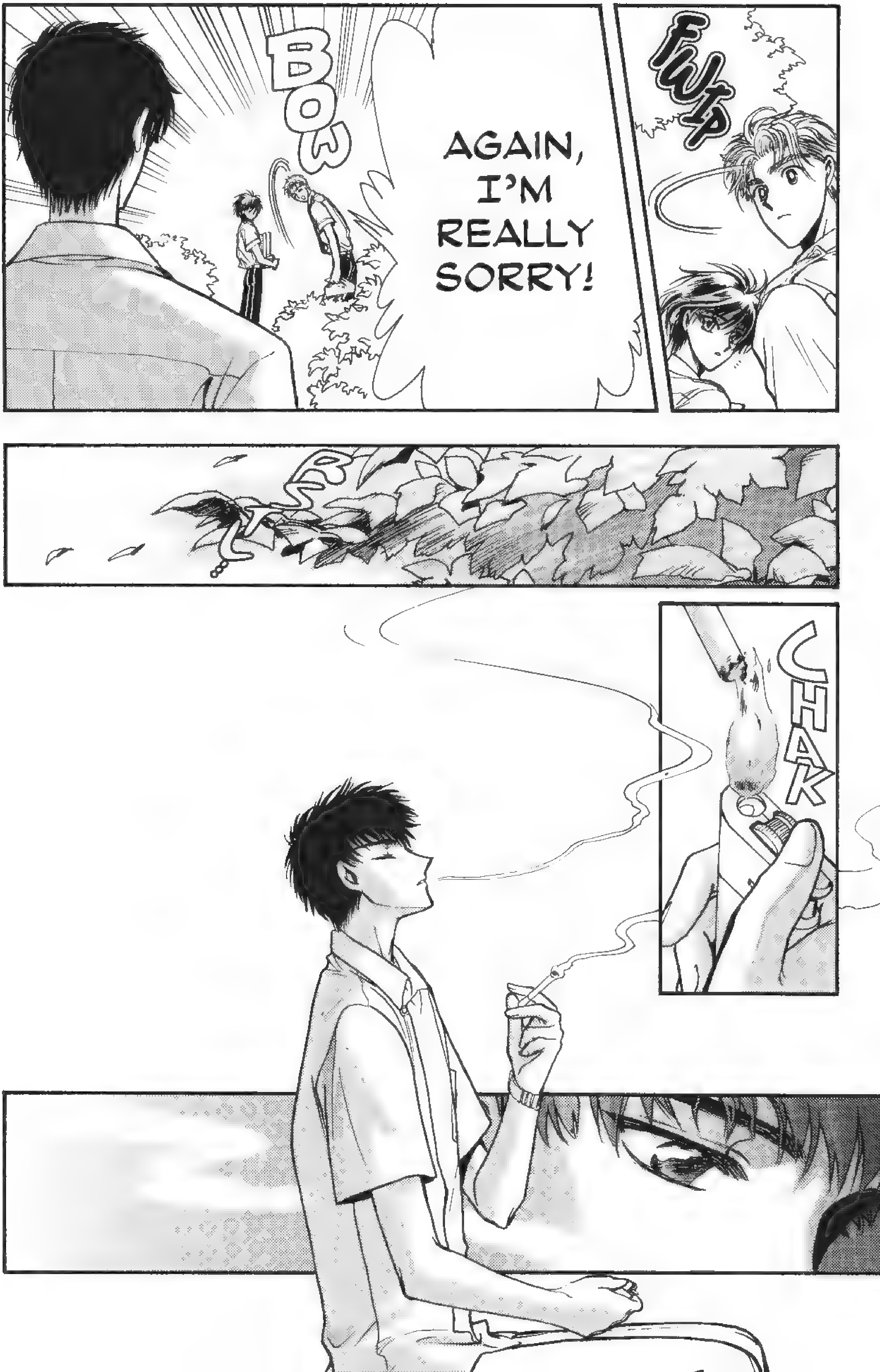

IT'S JUST... I CAN'T HELP BUT FEEL RELIEVED...
...THAT YOU'RE NO LONGER DREAMING ABOUT THE WORLD'S FUTURE.
BECAUSE WHEN THE DREAM-GAZING SHOWS YOU HINTS OF WHAT'S TO COME...
...I CAN SEE HOW MUCH IT HURTS YOU.
Why is that?
I always cause you nothing but worry, Lord Saiki.
BAM
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL!

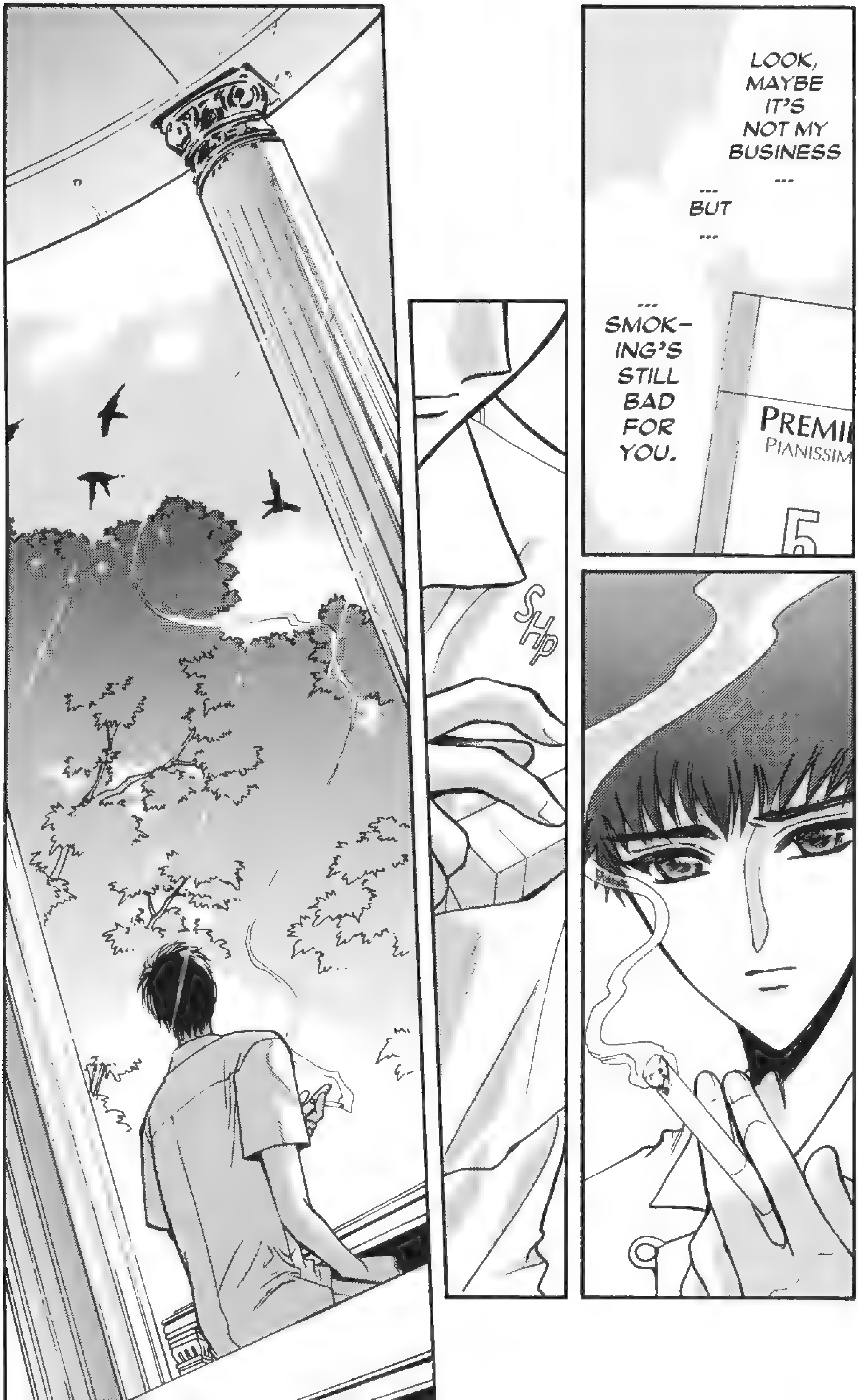

Thank you.
PRINCESS, IT'S TIME.
I...
I SHOULD GO!
DASH
?
TOMP TOMP
W— WE'LL SHOW IN THE VISITOR, THEN.

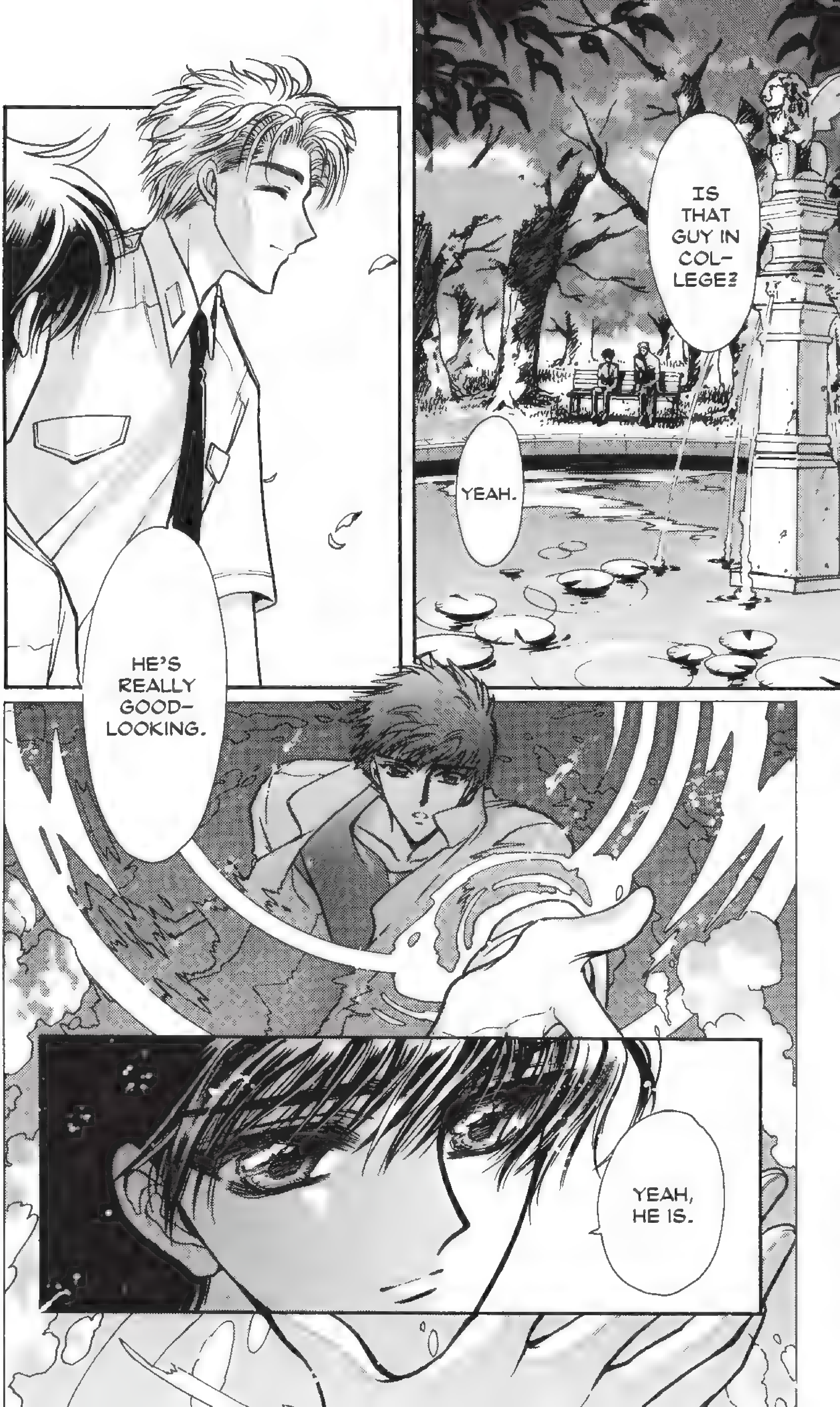

SHAK
I do thank you.
And yet, I...

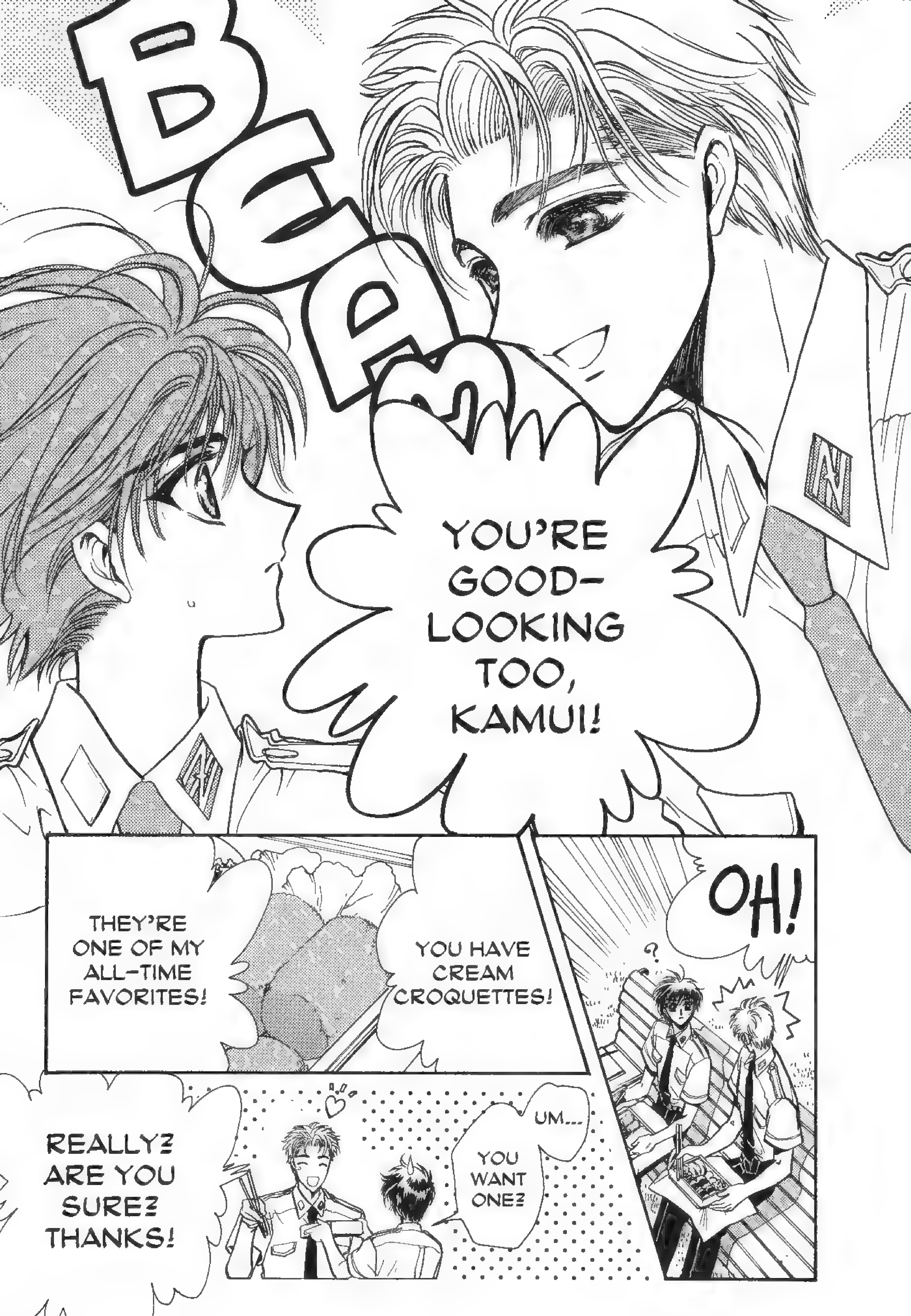

KAMUI !!
There you are!
RSTL
IT'S TIME FOR LUNCH!
OOPS
BOW
I'M SORRY!
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE STUDYING. I DIDN'T MEAN TO INTERRUPT.

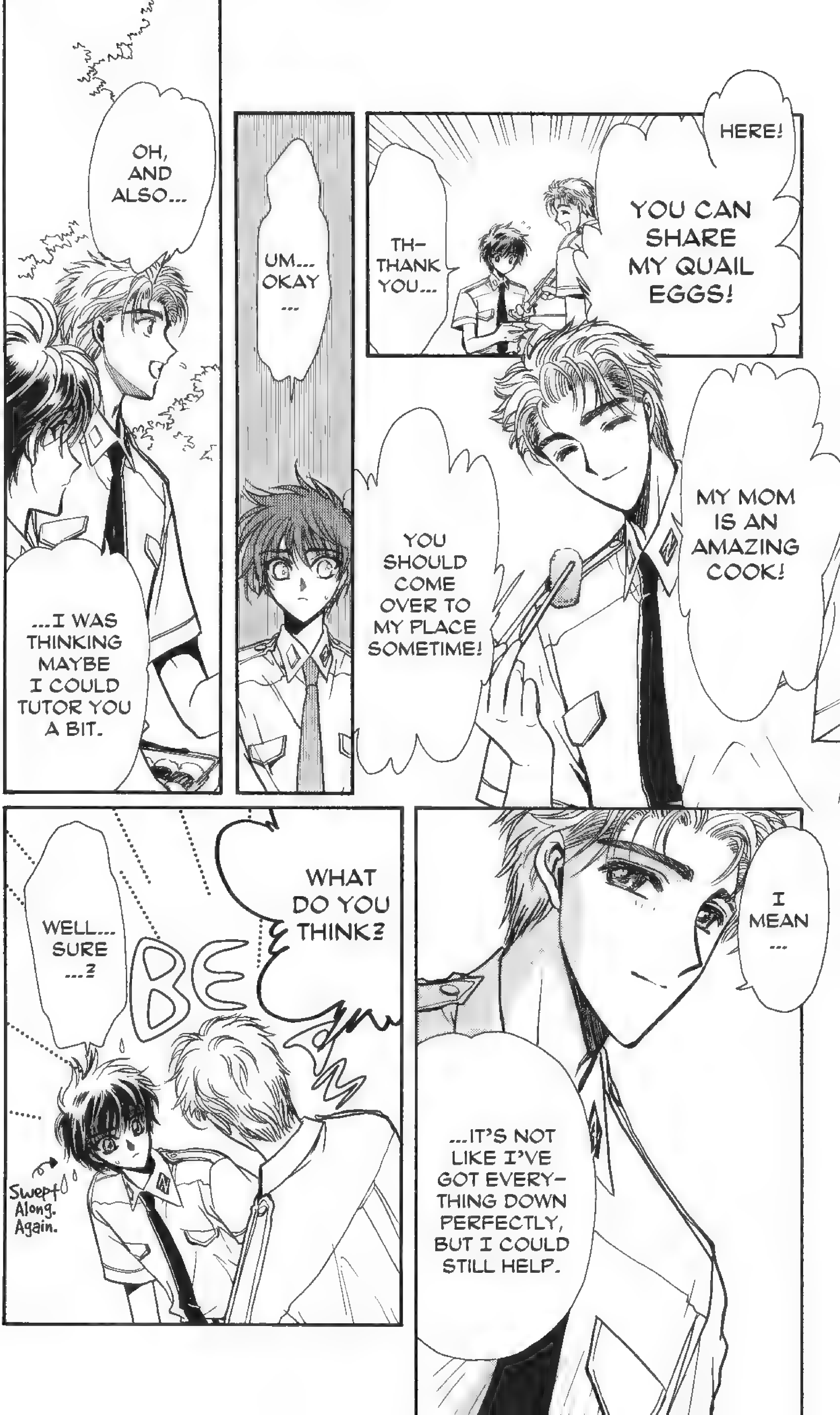

YOU TWO GO AND EAT.
WHAT ABOUT YOU?
I'D LIKE TO STAY HERE A LITTLE WHILE LONGER.
...
TAP
SEE YOU LATER, THEN.
THANKS.

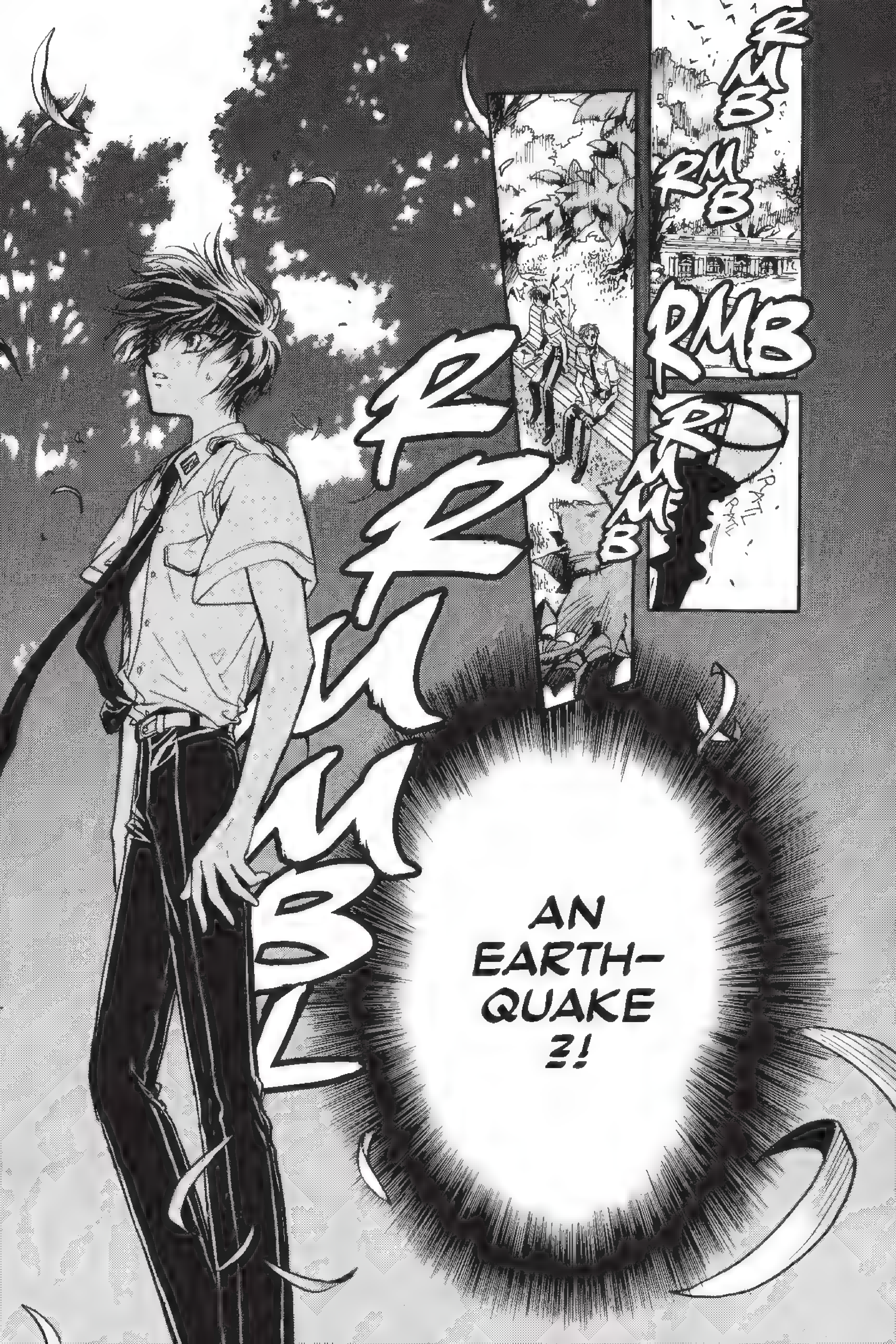

BOW
AGAIN, I'M REALLY SORRY!
FWIP
BRSTL...
CHAK

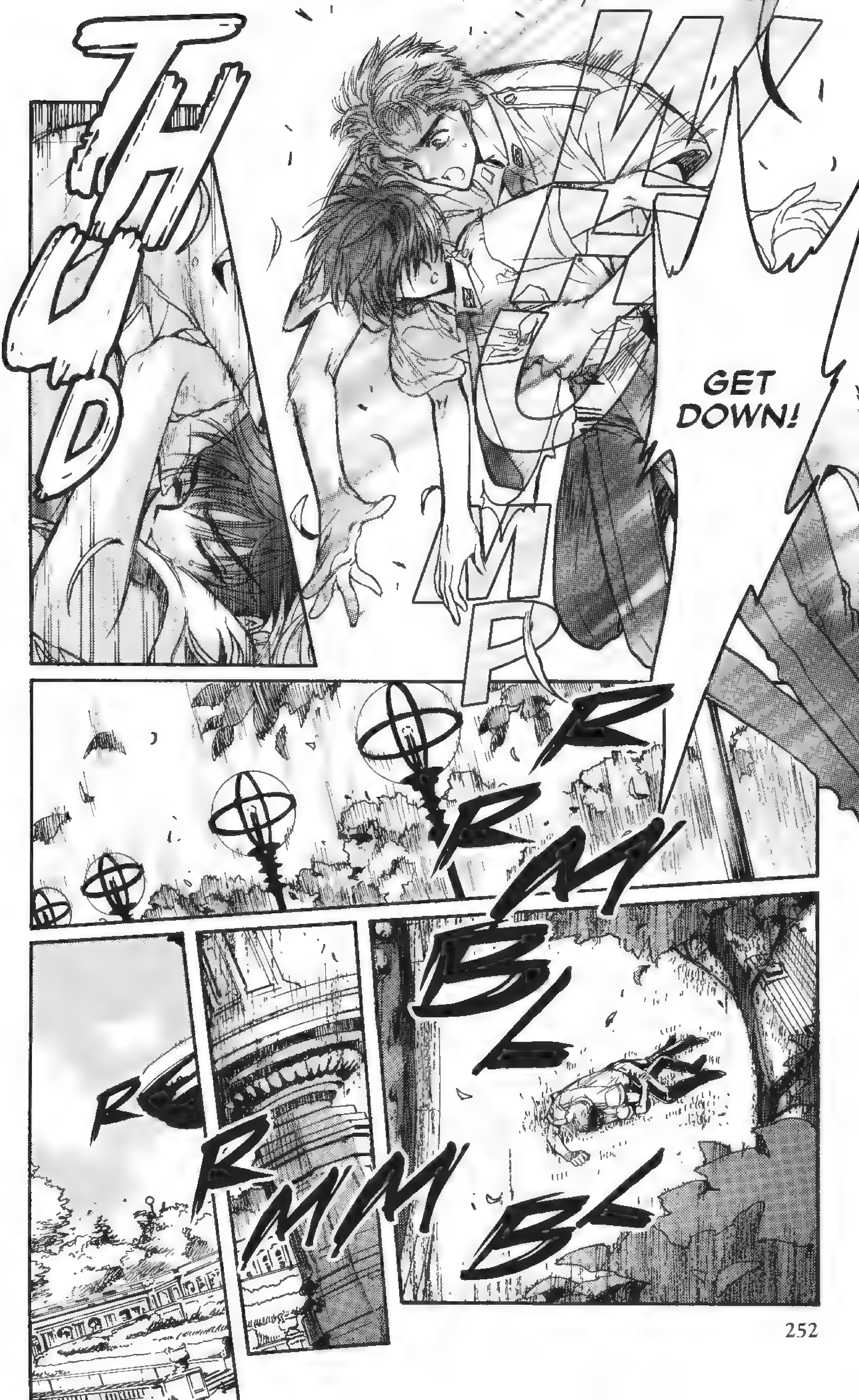

LOOK, MAYBE IT'S NOT MY BUSINESS ...
... BUT ...
... SMOKING'S STILL BAD FOR YOU.
PREMI
PIANISSIM
5
SHp

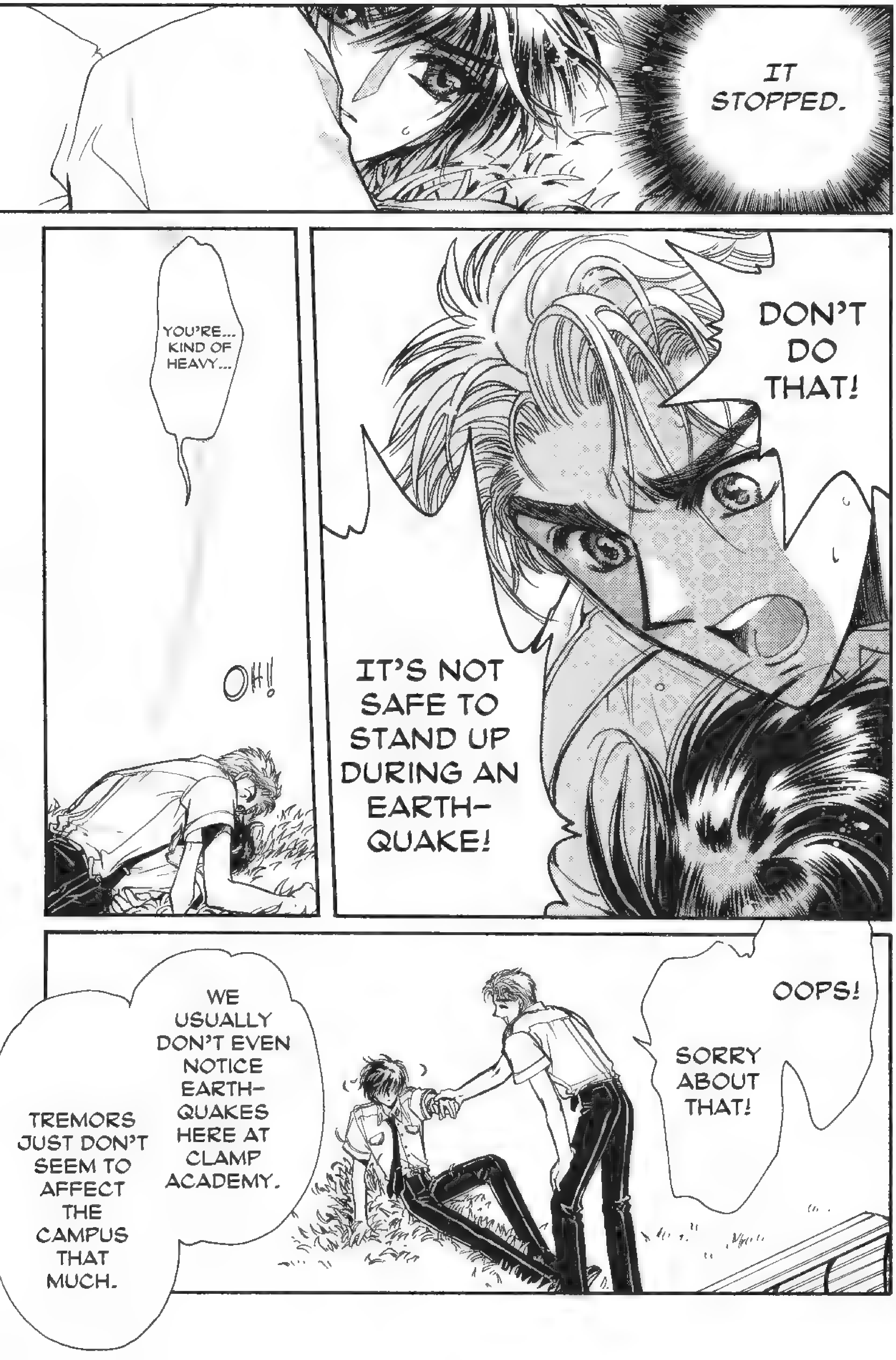

IS THAT GUY IN COLLEGE?
YEAH.
HE'S REALLY GOOD-LOOKING.
YEAH, HE IS.

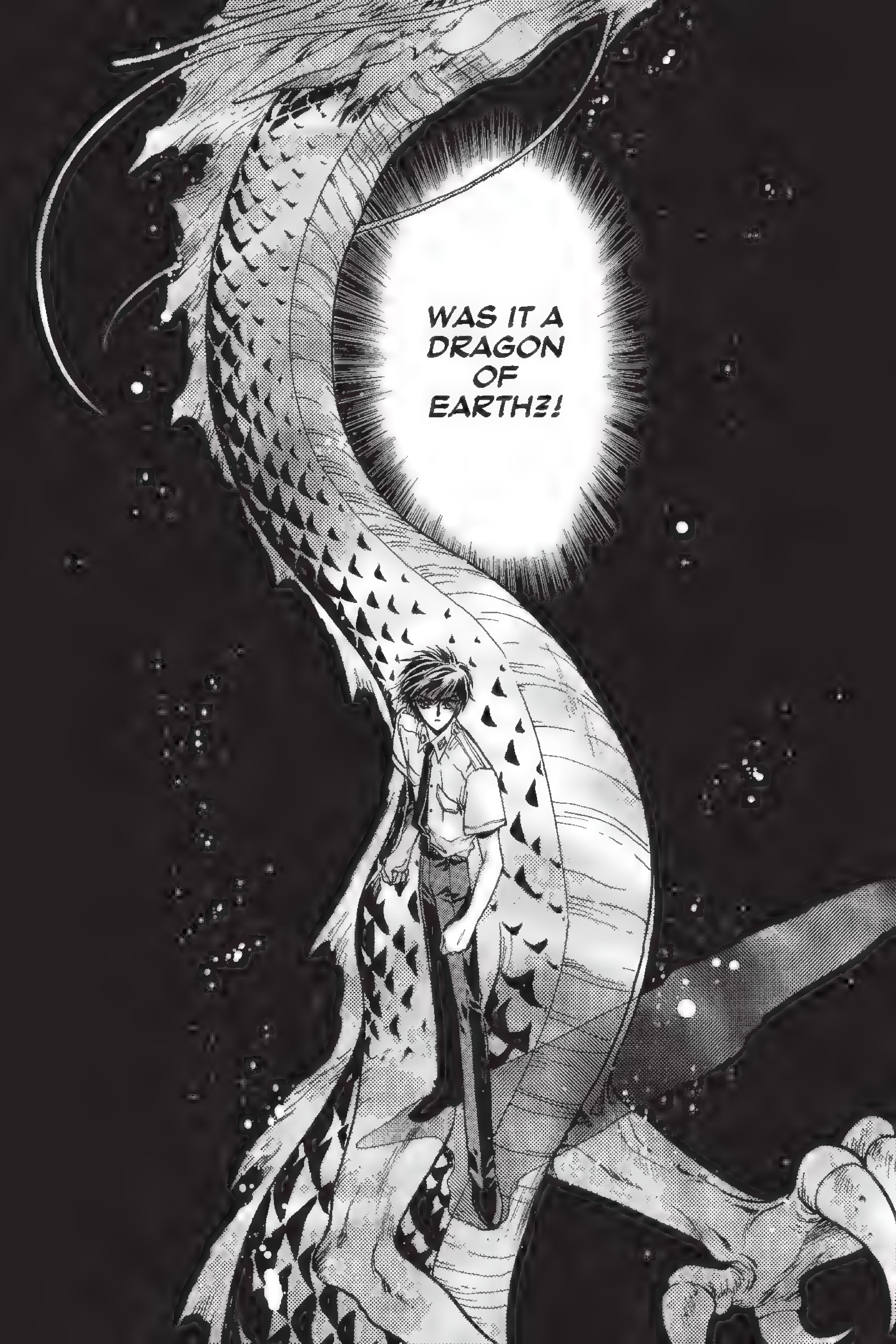

BEAM
YOU'RE GOOD-LOOKING TOO, KAMUI!
OH!
?
YOU HAVE CREAM CROQUETTES!
THEY'RE ONE OF MY ALL-TIME FAVORITES!
UM...
YOU WANT ONE?
REALLY? ARE YOU SURE? THANKS!

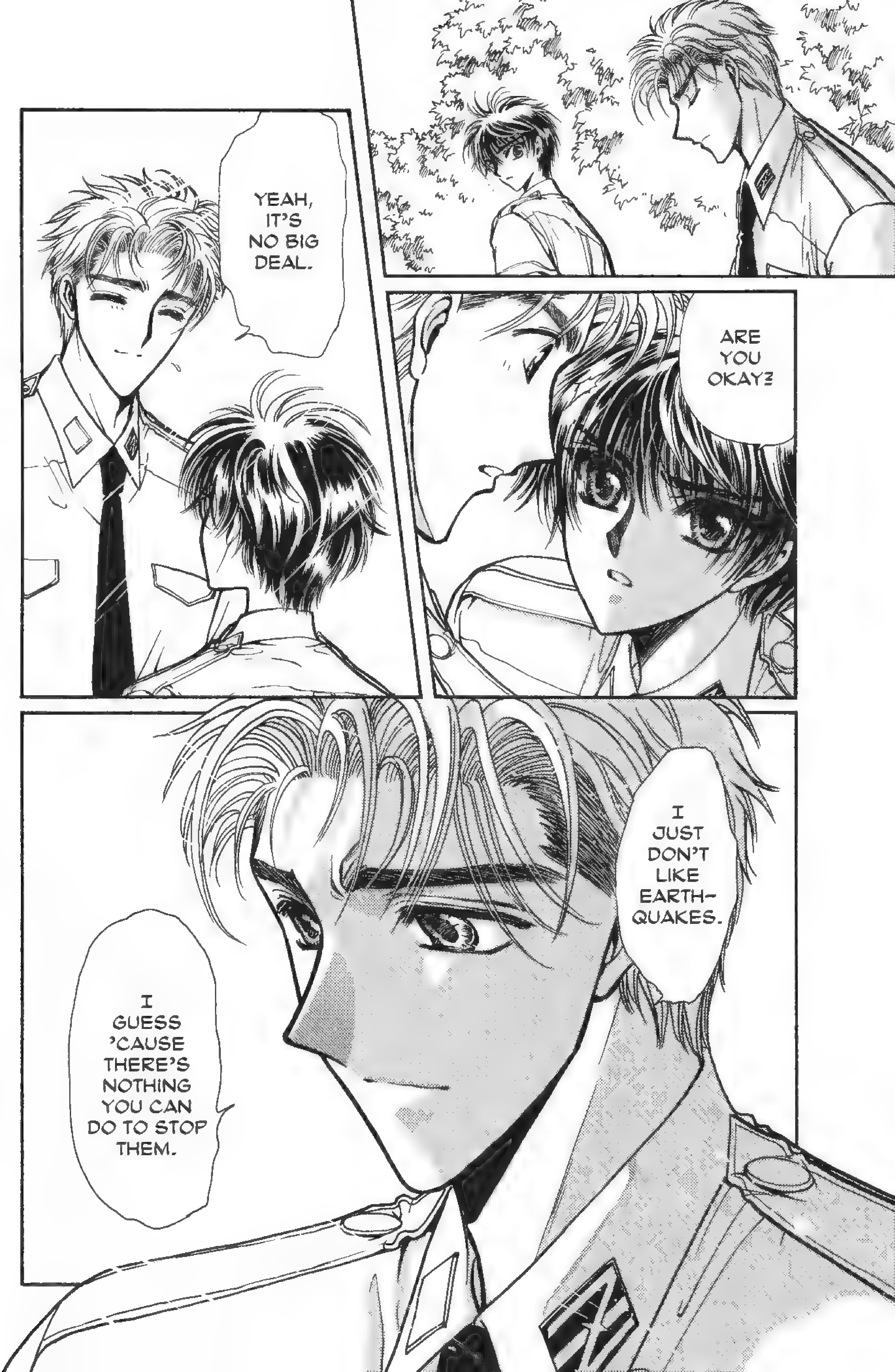

HERE!
YOU CAN SHARE MY QUAIL EGGS!
TH-THANK YOU...
MY MOM IS AN AMAZING COOK!
YOU SHOULD COME OVER TO MY PLACE SOMETIME!
UM... OKAY ...
OH, AND ALSO...
...I WAS THINKING MAYBE I COULD TUTOR YOU A BIT.
I MEAN ...
...IT'S NOT LIKE I'VE GOT EVERYTHING DOWN PERFECTLY, BUT I COULD STILL HELP.
WHAT DO YOU THINK?
BE
WELL... SURE ...?
Swept Along. Again.

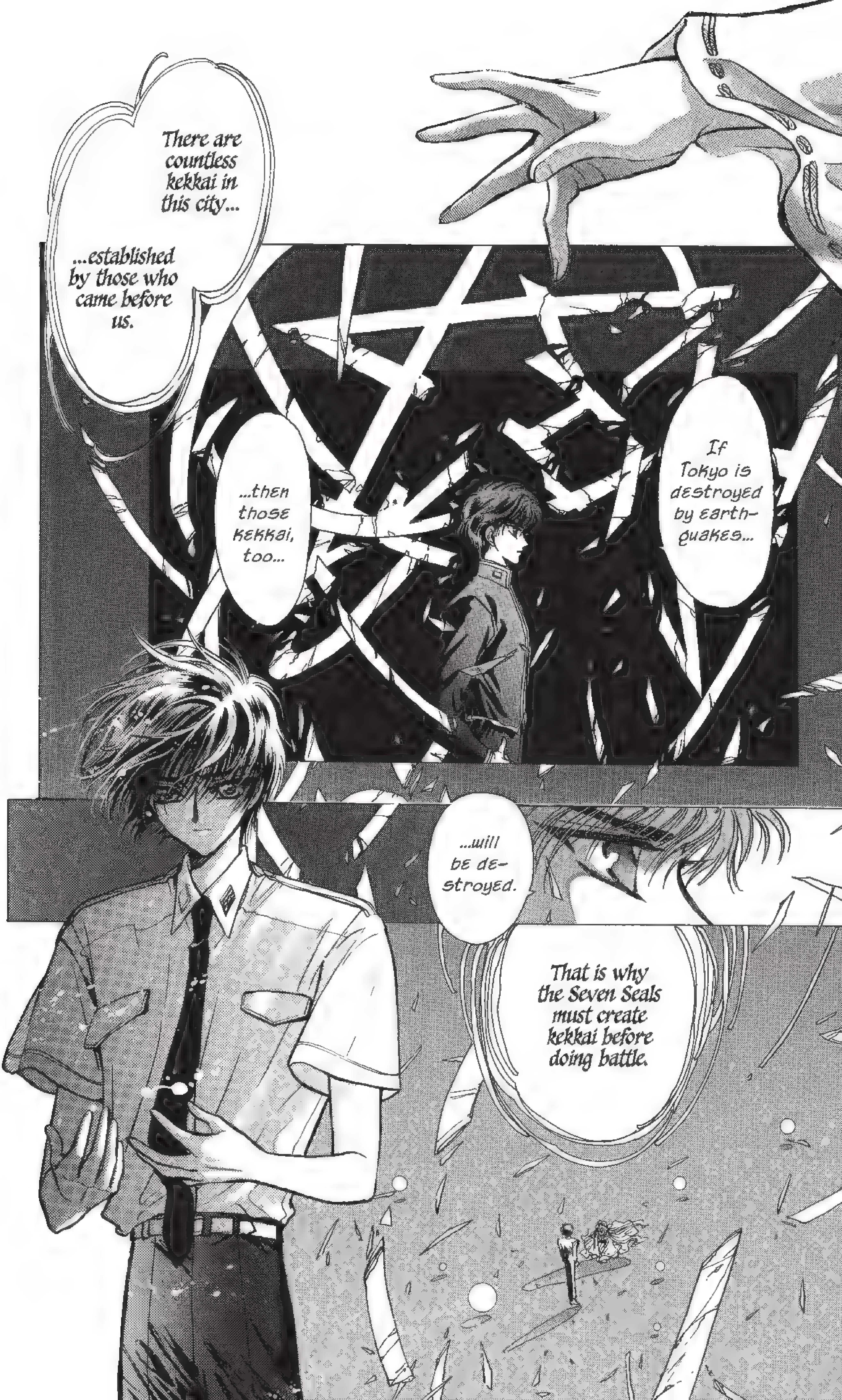

RMB
RMB
RMB
RMMB
RATL RATL
RRUMBL
AN EARTH-QUAKE ?!

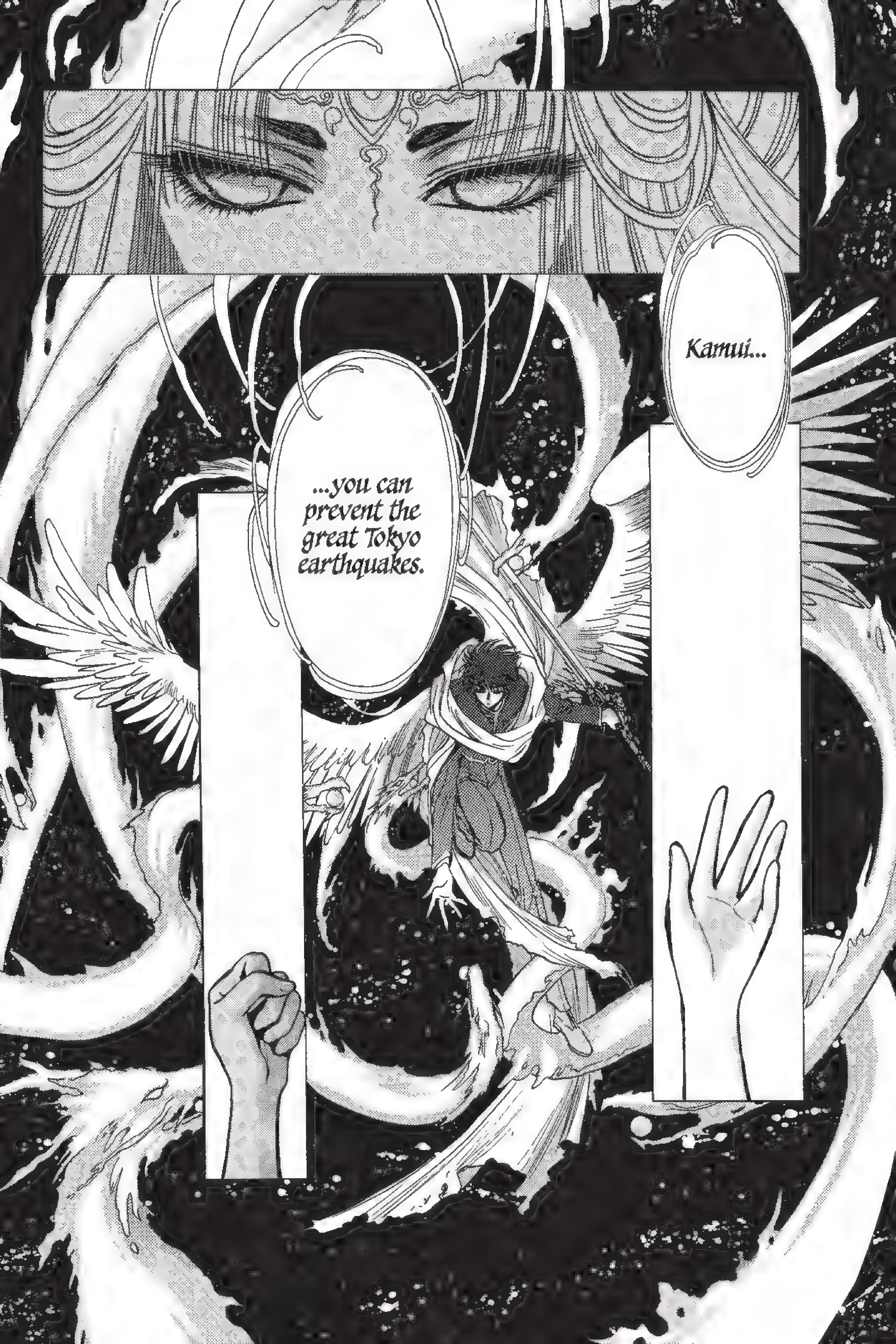

GET DOWN!
WHUMP
THUD
RRMBL
RRRMMB

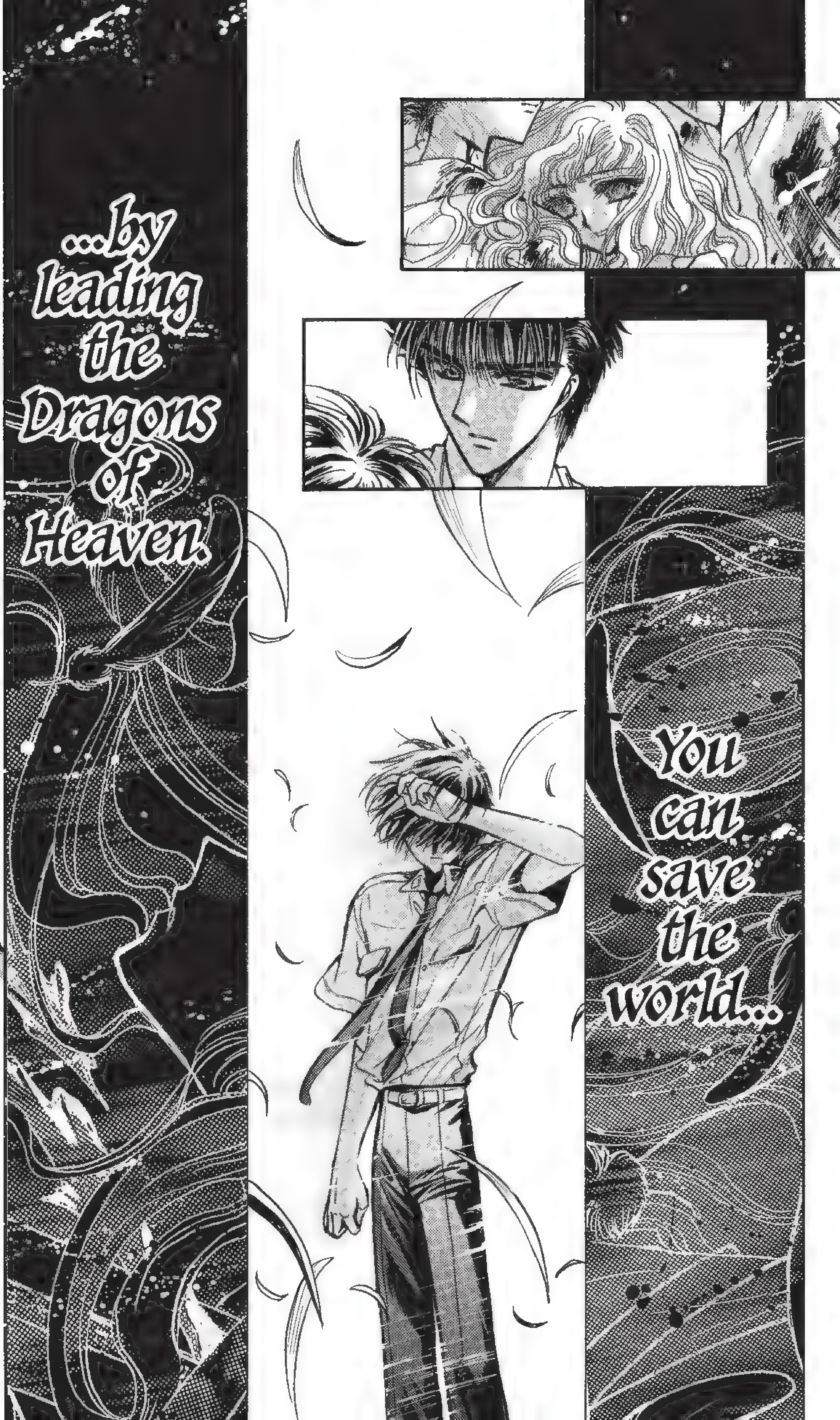

IT STOPPED.
DON'T DO THAT!
IT'S NOT SAFE TO STAND UP DURING AN EARTHQUAKE!
YOU'RE... KIND OF HEAVY...
OH!
OOPS!
SORRY ABOUT THAT!
WE USUALLY DON'T EVEN NOTICE EARTHQUAKES HERE AT CLAMP ACADEMY.
TREMORS JUST DON'T SEEM TO AFFECT THE CAMPUS THAT MUCH.

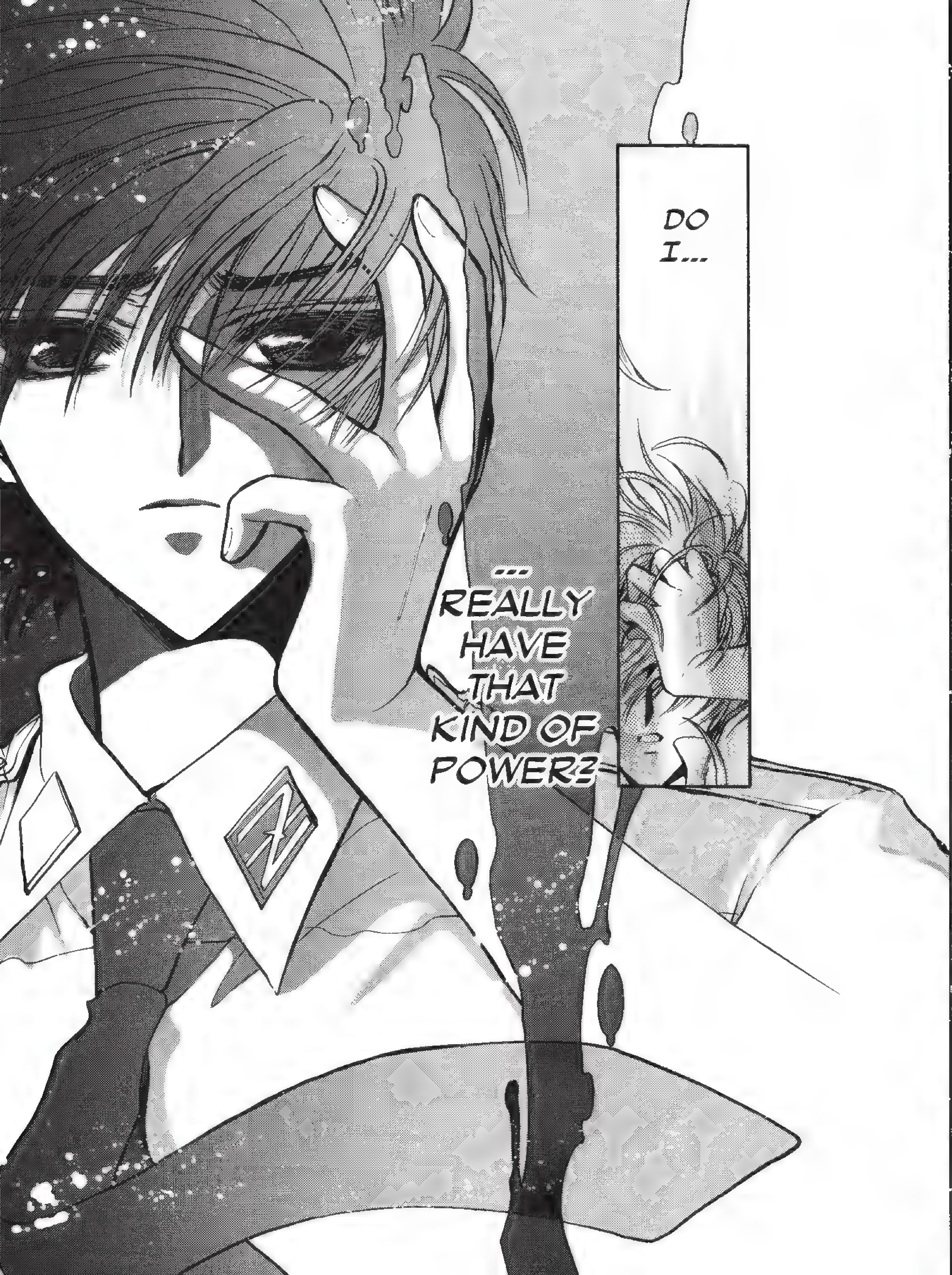

WAS IT A DRAGON OF EARTH?!

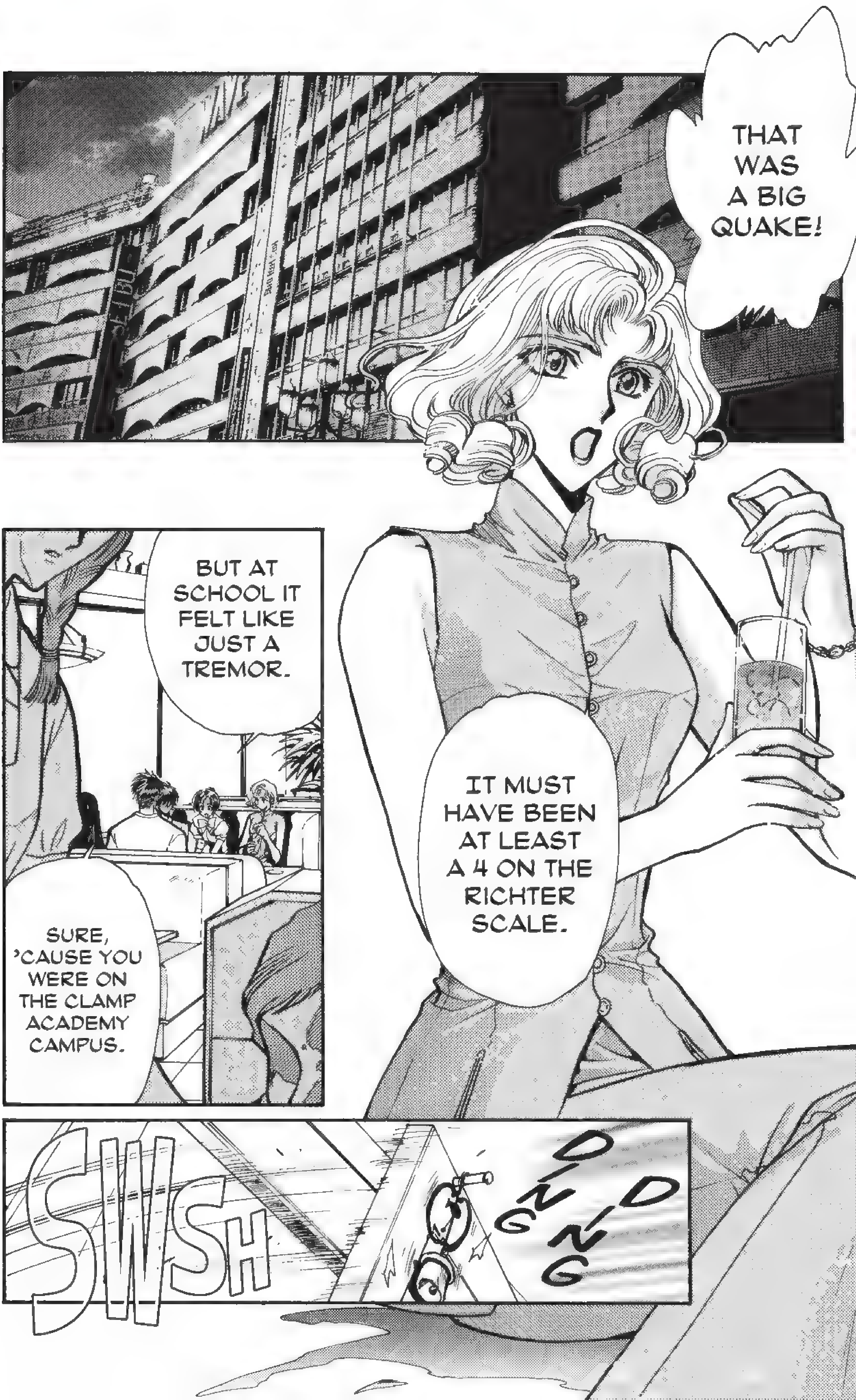

ARE YOU OKAY?
YEAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
I JUST DON'T LIKE EARTHQUAKES.
I GUESS 'CAUSE THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THEM.

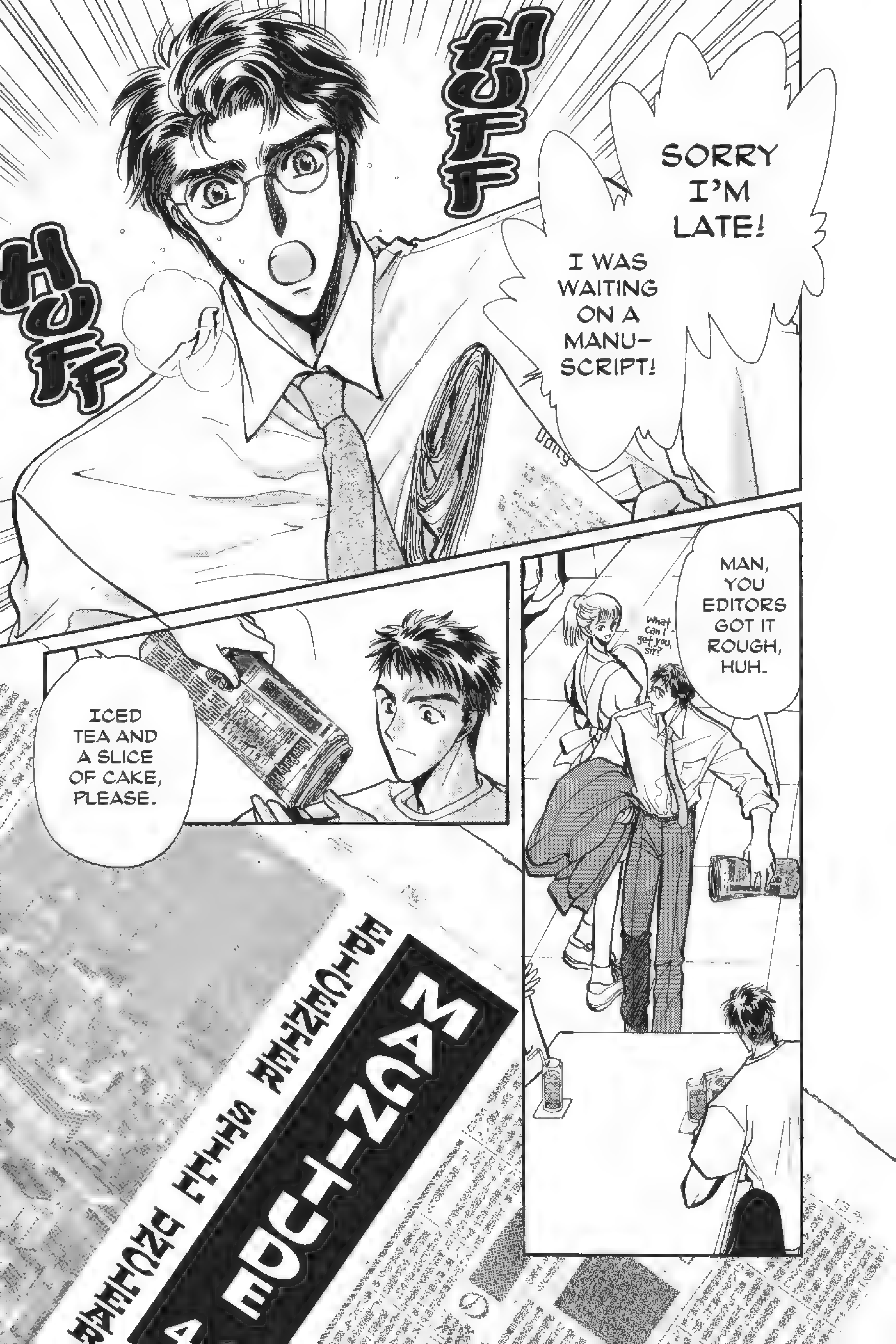

There are countless kekkai in this city...
...established by those who came before us.
If Tokyo is destroyed by earthquakes...
...then those kekkai, too...
...will be destroyed.
That is why the Seven Seals must create kekkai before doing battle.

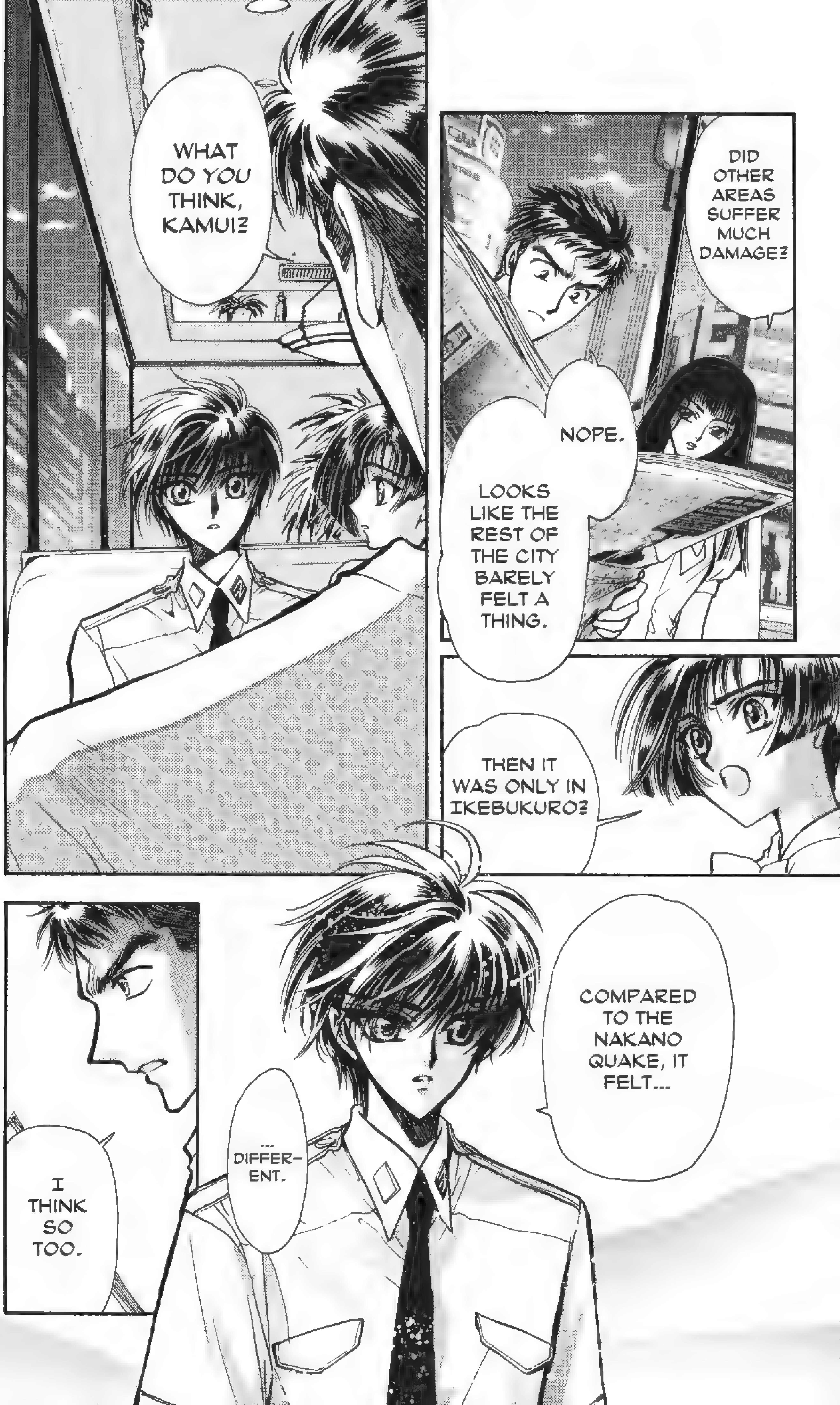

Kamui...
...you can prevent the great Tokyo earthquakes.

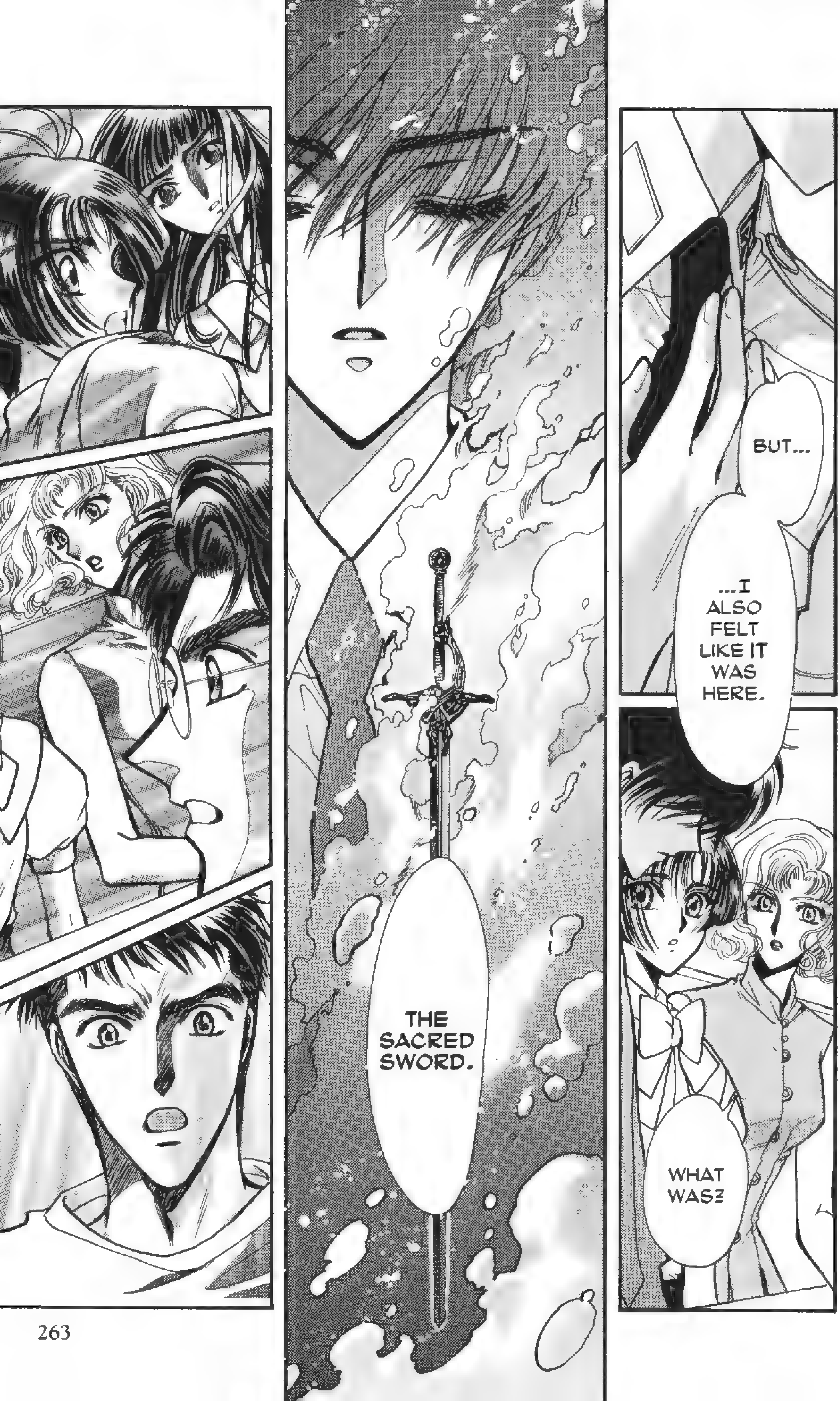

You can save the world...
...by leading the Dragons of Heaven.

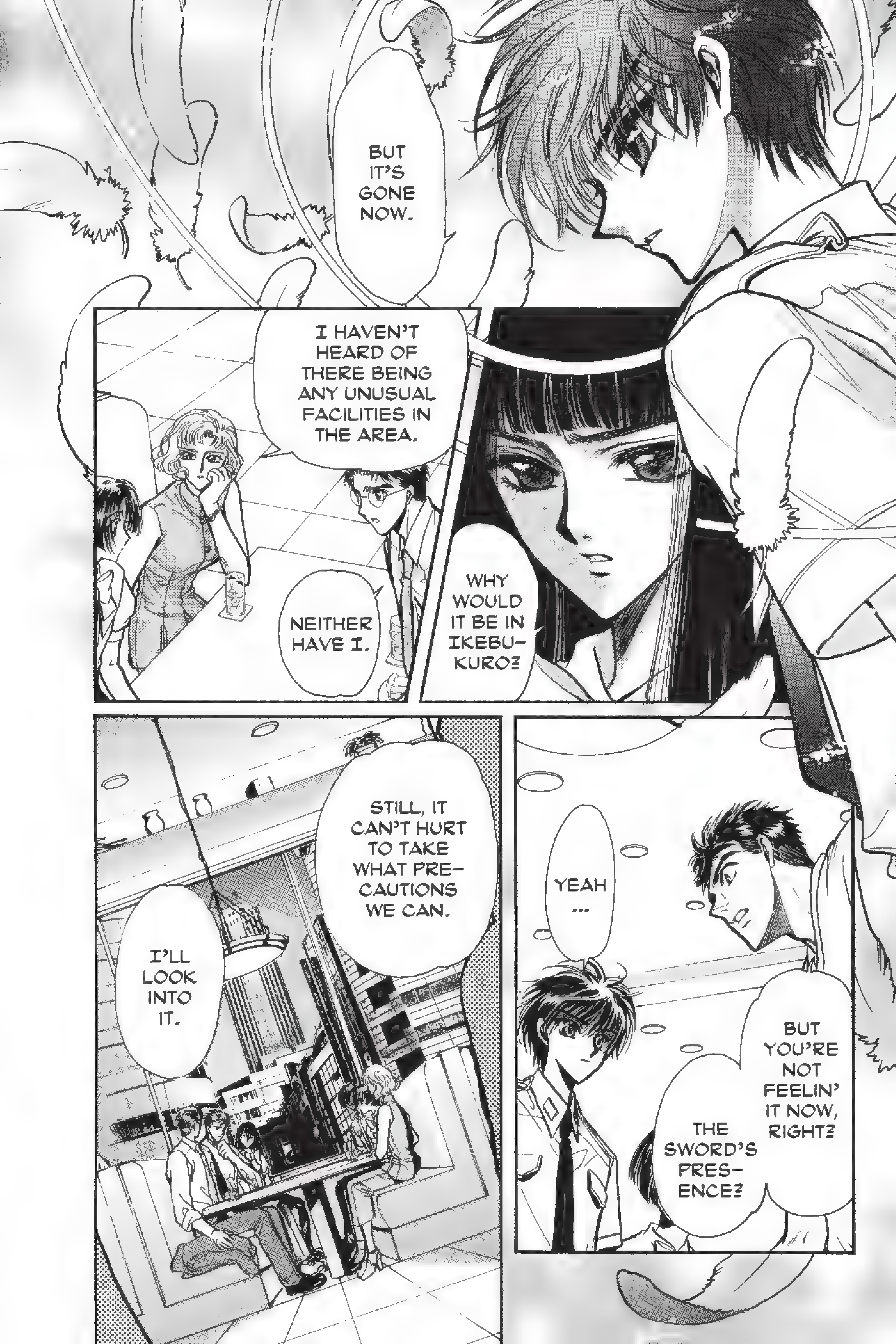

DO I...
...REALLY HAVE THAT KIND OF POWER?

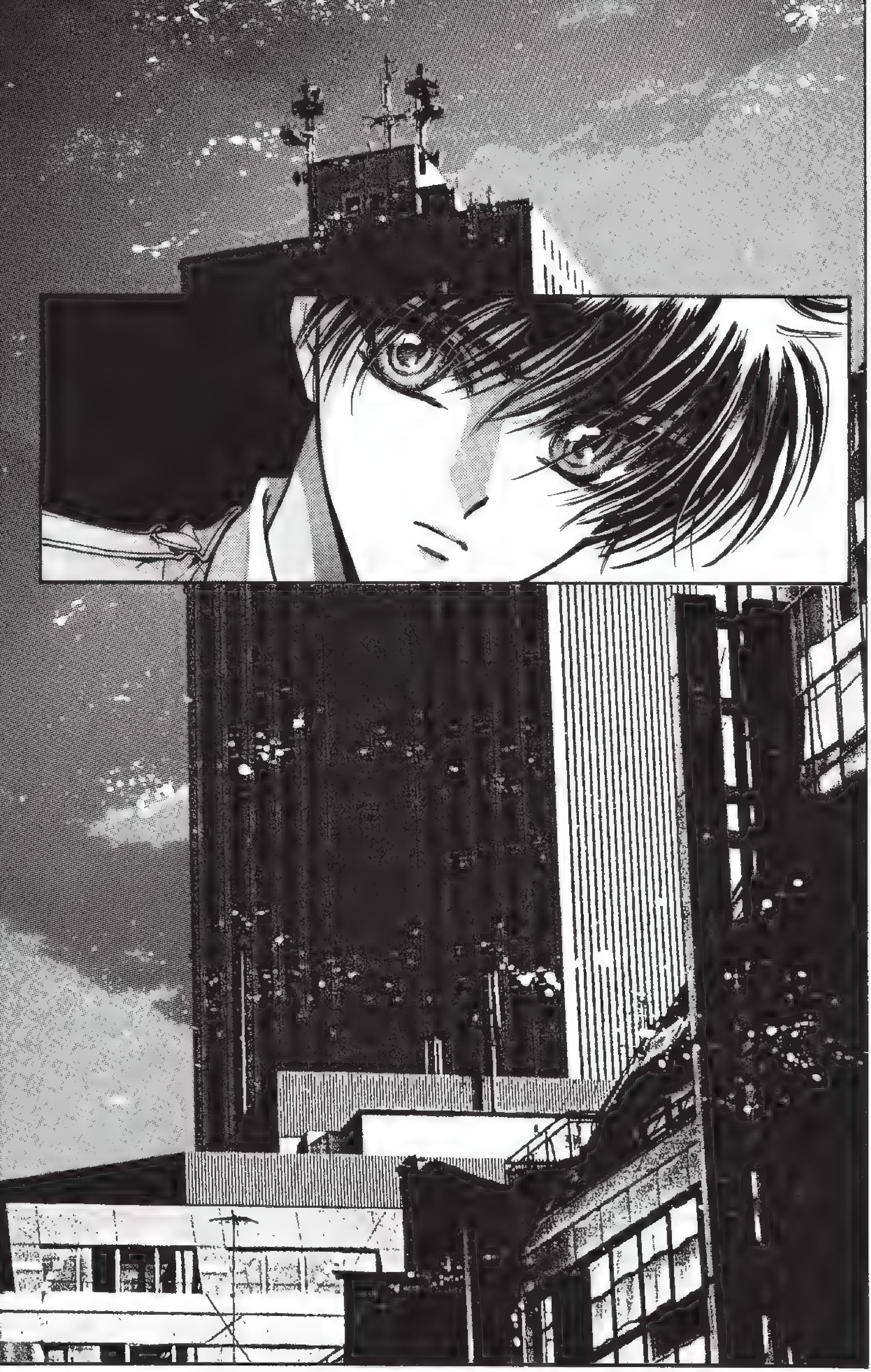

THAT WAS A BIG QUAKE!
IT MUST HAVE BEEN AT LEAST A 4 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.
BUT AT SCHOOL IT FELT LIKE JUST A TREMOR.
SURE, 'CAUSE YOU WERE ON THE CLAMP ACADEMY CAMPUS.
DING
DING
SWSH

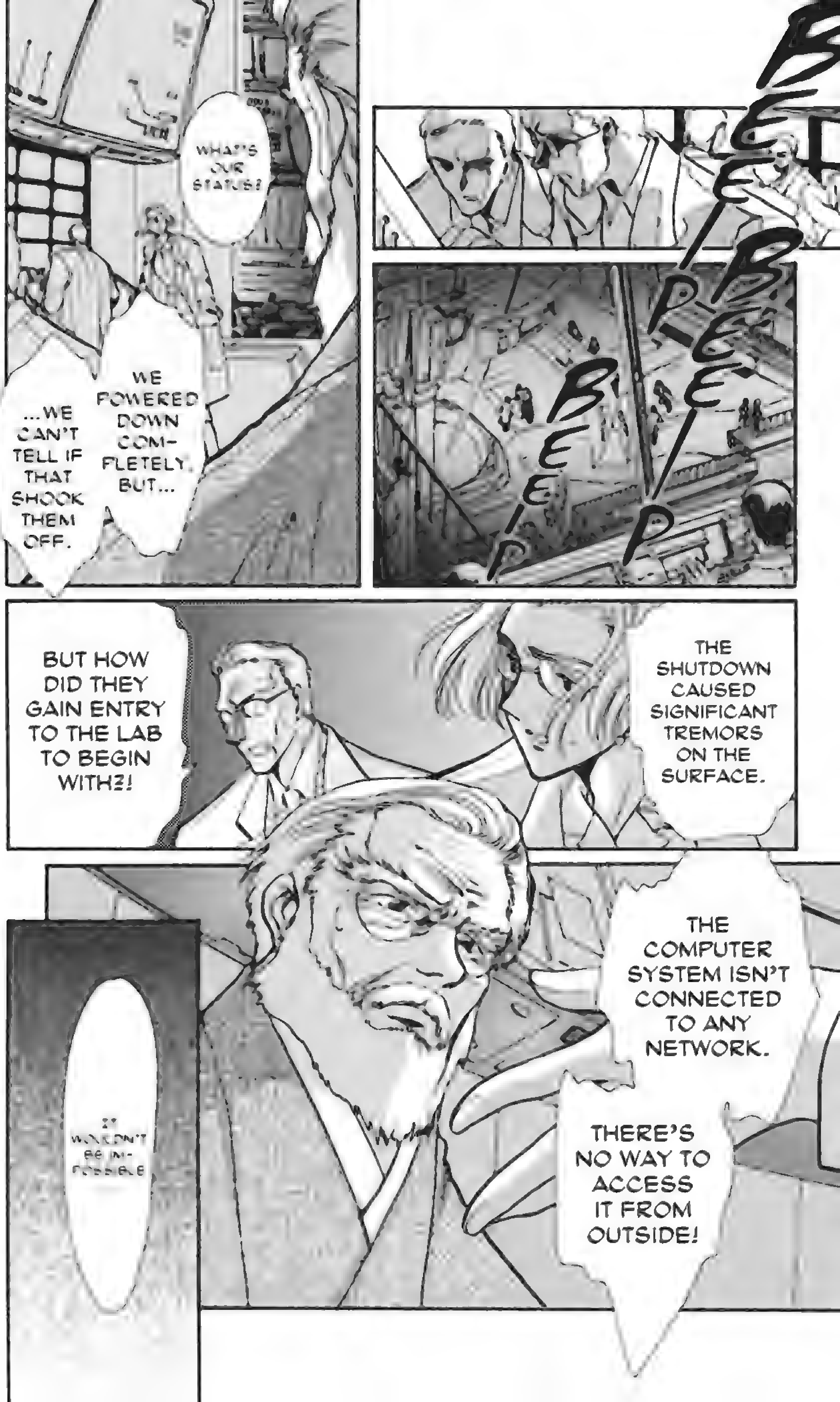

HUFF
SORRY I'M LATE!
I WAS WAITING ON A MANUSCRIPT!
HUFF
Daily
MAN, YOU EDITORS GOT IT ROUGH, HUH.
what can I get you, sir?
ICED TEA AND A SLICE OF CAKE, PLEASE.
MAGNITUDE 4
EPICENTER STILL UNCLEAR

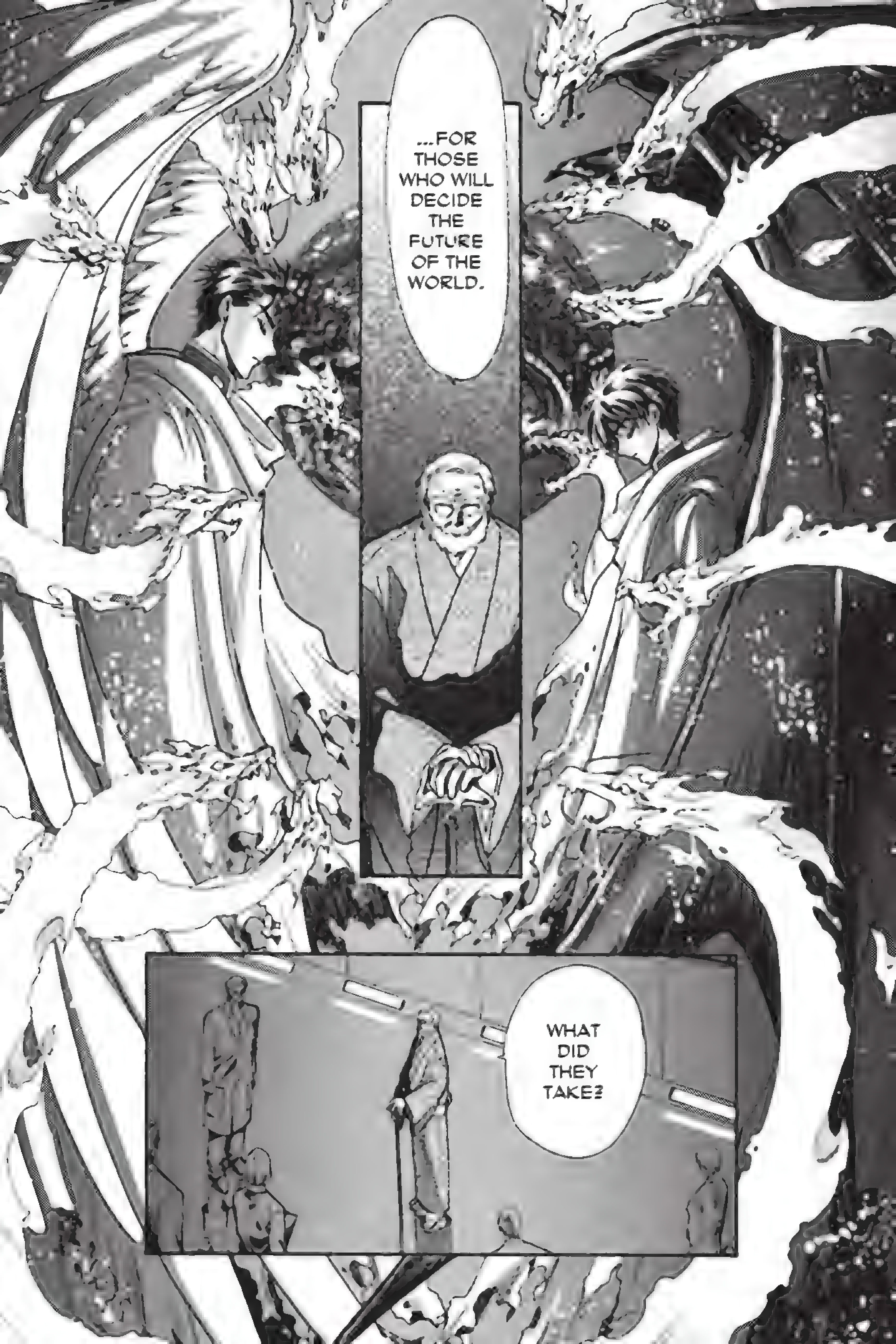

DID OTHER AREAS SUFFER MUCH DAMAGE?
NOPE.
LOOKS LIKE THE REST OF THE CITY BARELY FELT A THING.
WHAT DO YOU THINK, KAMUI?
THEN IT WAS ONLY IN IKEBUKURO?
COMPARED TO THE NAKANO QUAKE, IT FELT...
...DIFFERENT.
I THINK SO TOO.

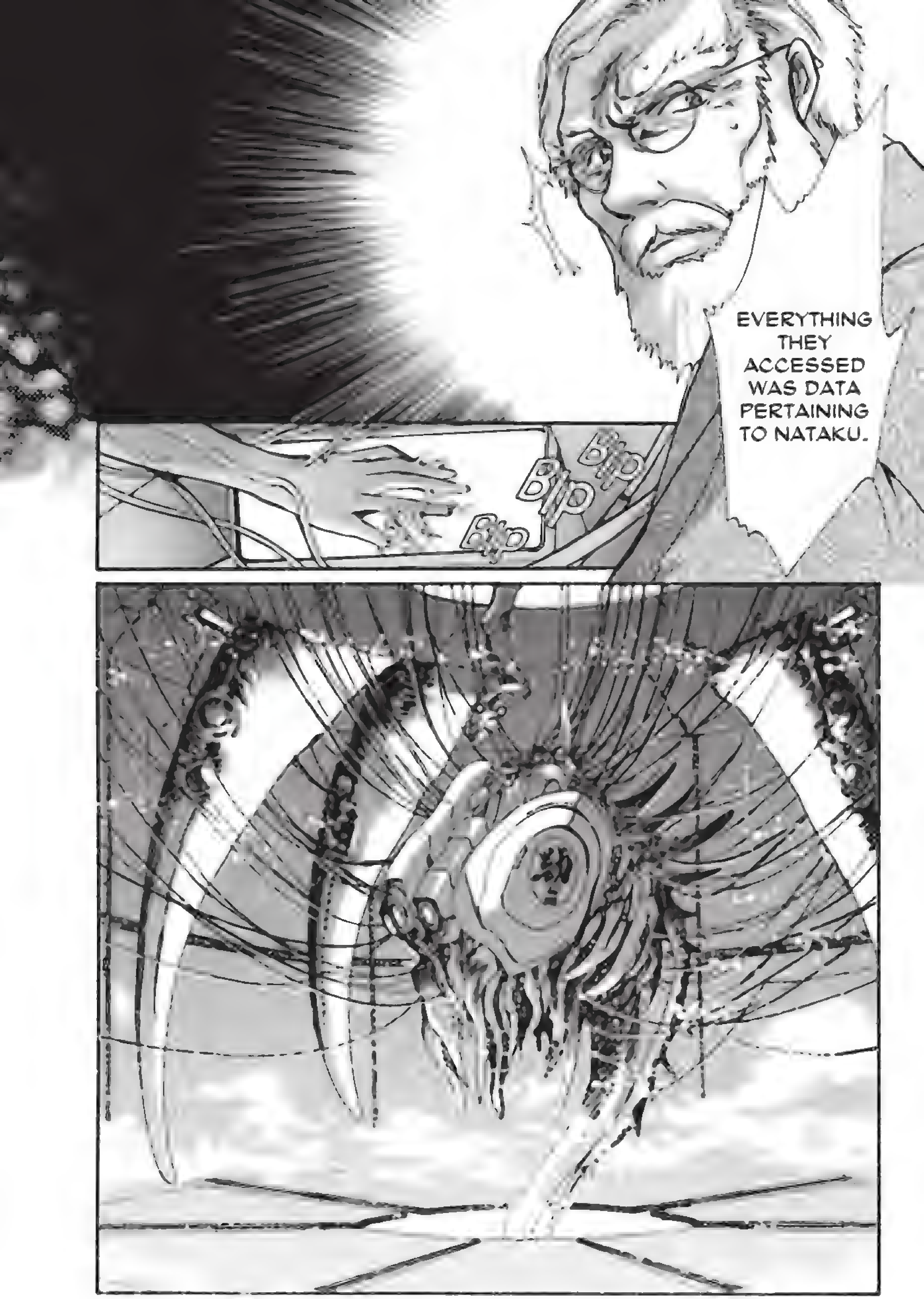

BUT...
...I ALSO FELT LIKE IT WAS HERE.
WHAT WAS?
THE SACRED SWORD.


BUT IT'S GONE NOW.
WHY WOULD IT BE IN IKEBUKURO?
I HAVEN'T HEARD OF THERE BEING ANY UNUSUAL FACILITIES IN THE AREA.
NEITHER HAVE I.
YEAH ...
BUT YOU'RE NOT FEELIN' IT NOW, RIGHT?
THE SWORD'S PRESENCE?
STILL, IT CAN'T HURT TO TAKE WHAT PRECAUTIONS WE CAN.
I'LL LOOK INTO IT.

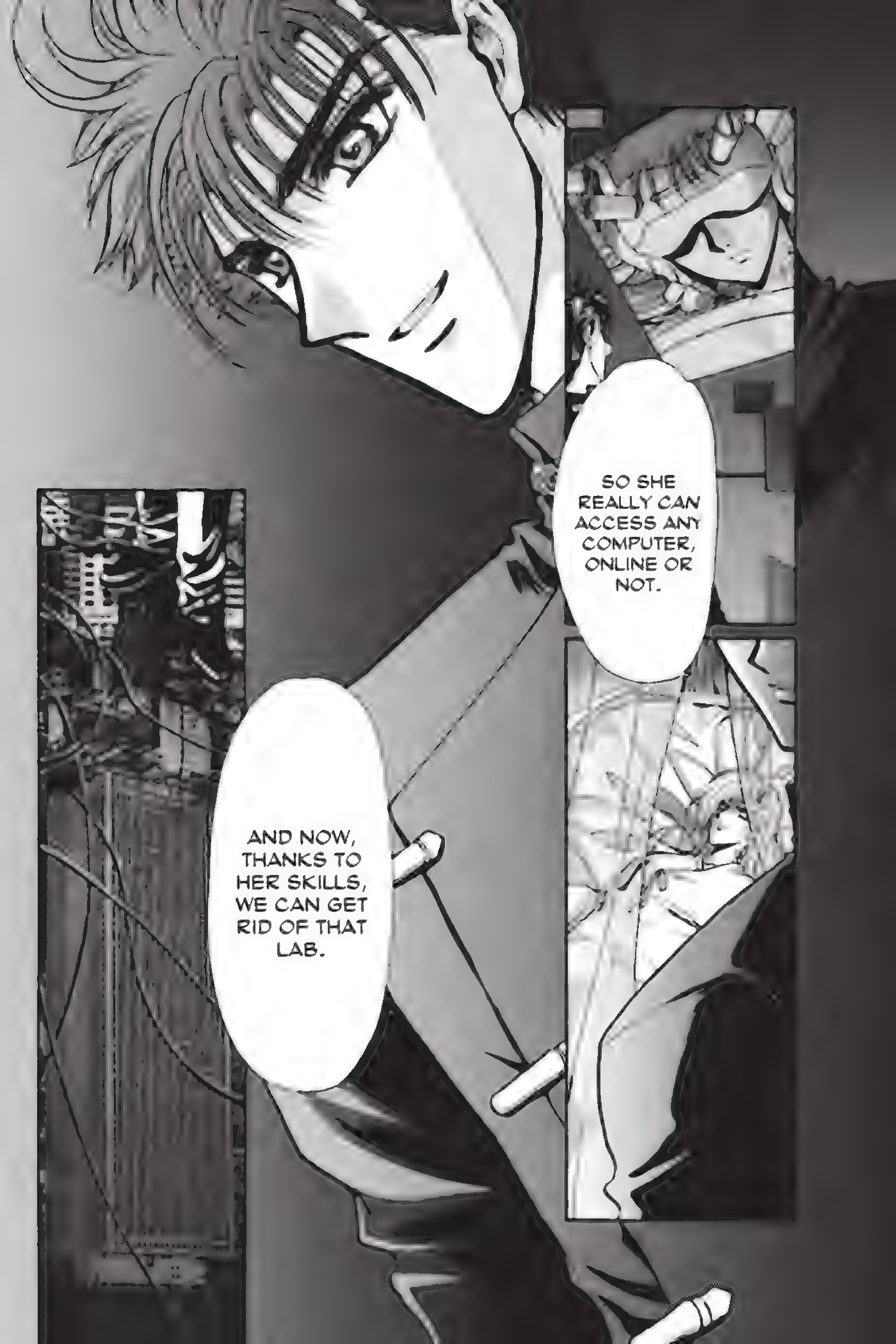



BEEP
BEEP
BEEP
WHAT'S OUR STATUS?
WE POWERED DOWN COMPLETELY, BUT...
...WE CAN'T TELL IF THAT SHOOK THEM OFF.
THE SHUTDOWN CAUSED SIGNIFICANT TREMORS ON THE SURFACE.
BUT HOW DID THEY GAIN ENTRY TO THE LAB TO BEGIN WITH?!
THE COMPUTER SYSTEM ISN'T CONNECTED TO ANY NETWORK.
THERE'S NO WAY TO ACCESS IT FROM OUTSIDE!
IT WOULDN'T BE IMPOSSIBLE

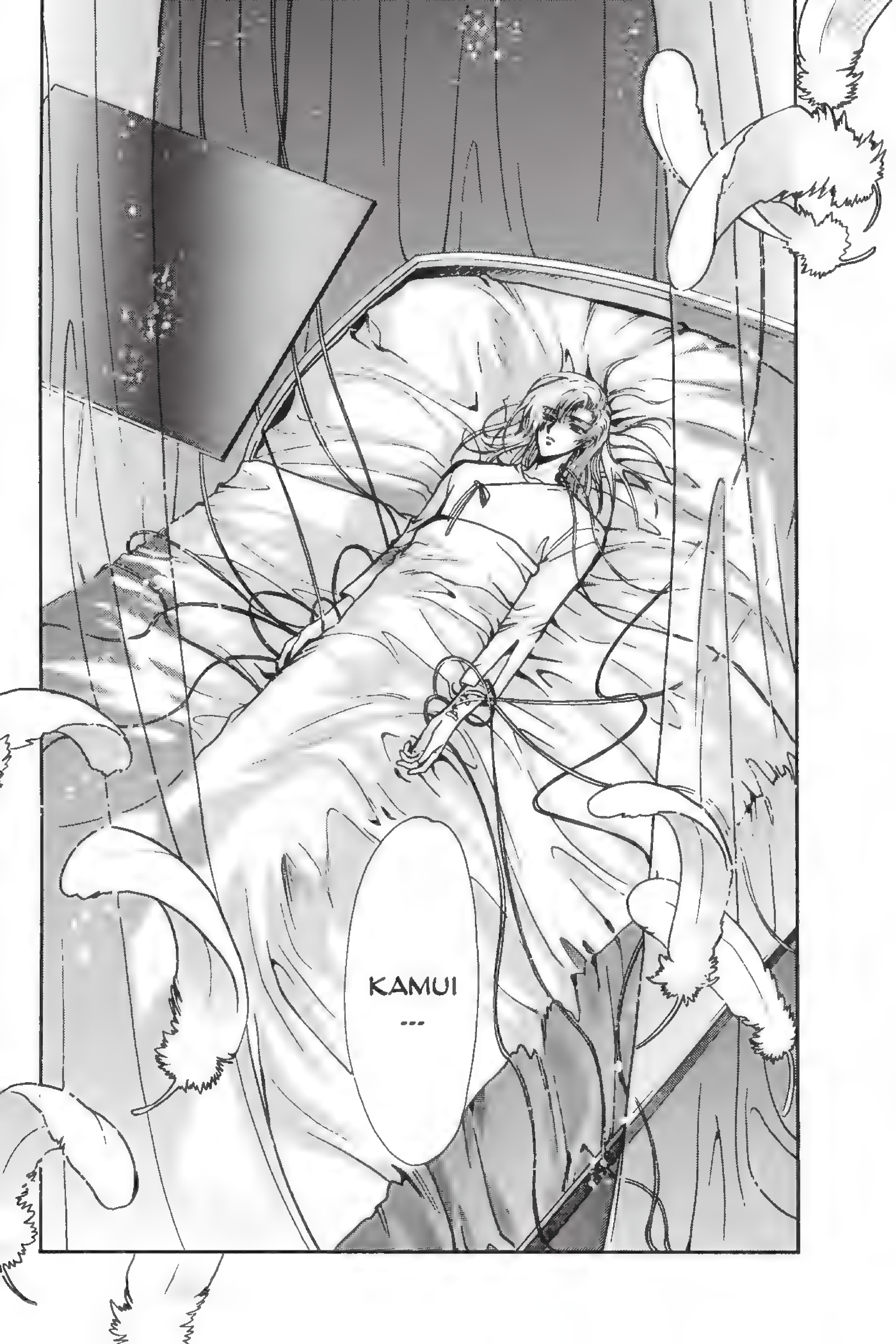

...FOR THOSE WHO WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE OF THE WORLD.
WHAT DID THEY TAKE?

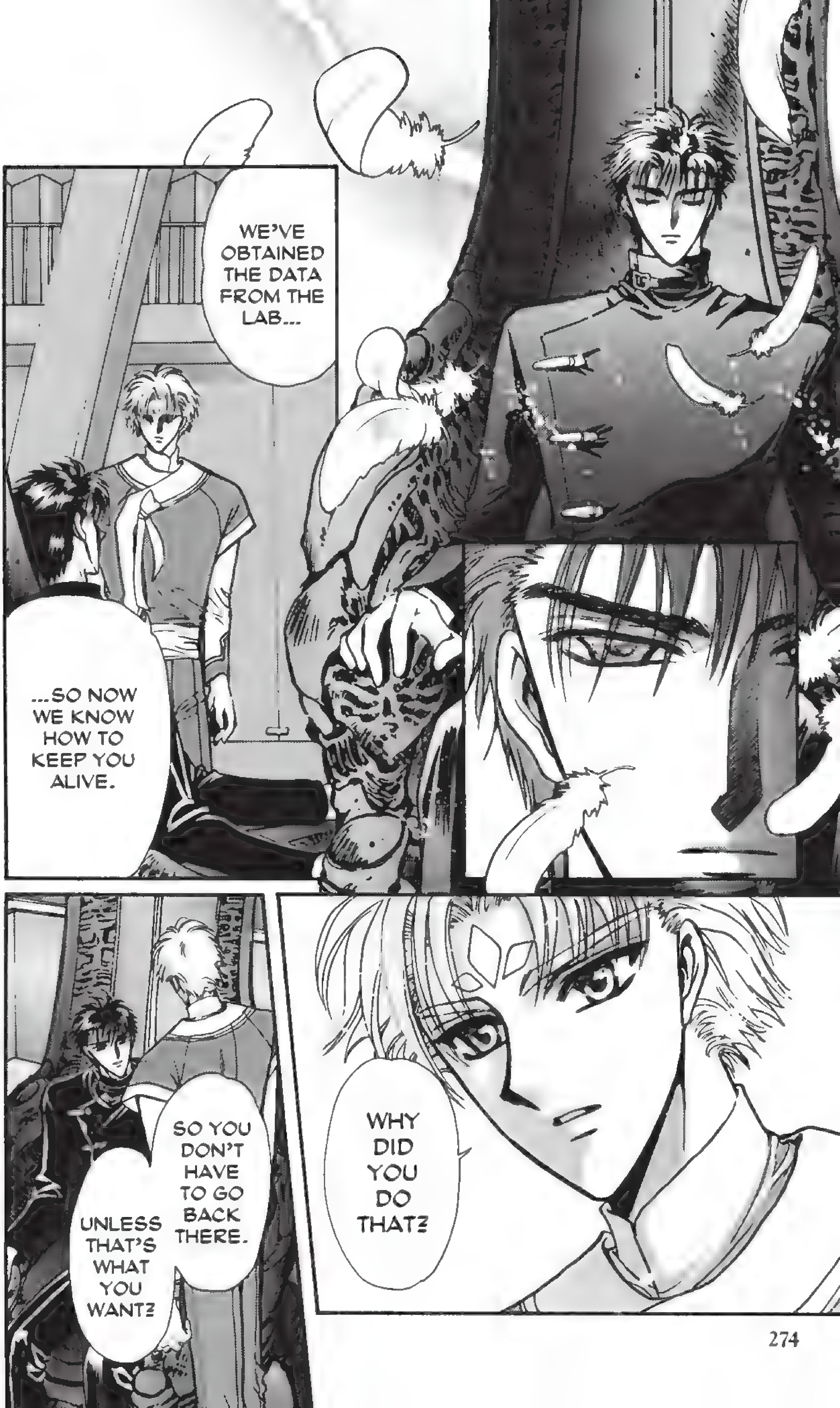

EVERYTHING THEY ACCESSED WAS DATA PERTAINING TO NATAKU.
Blip
Blip
Blip

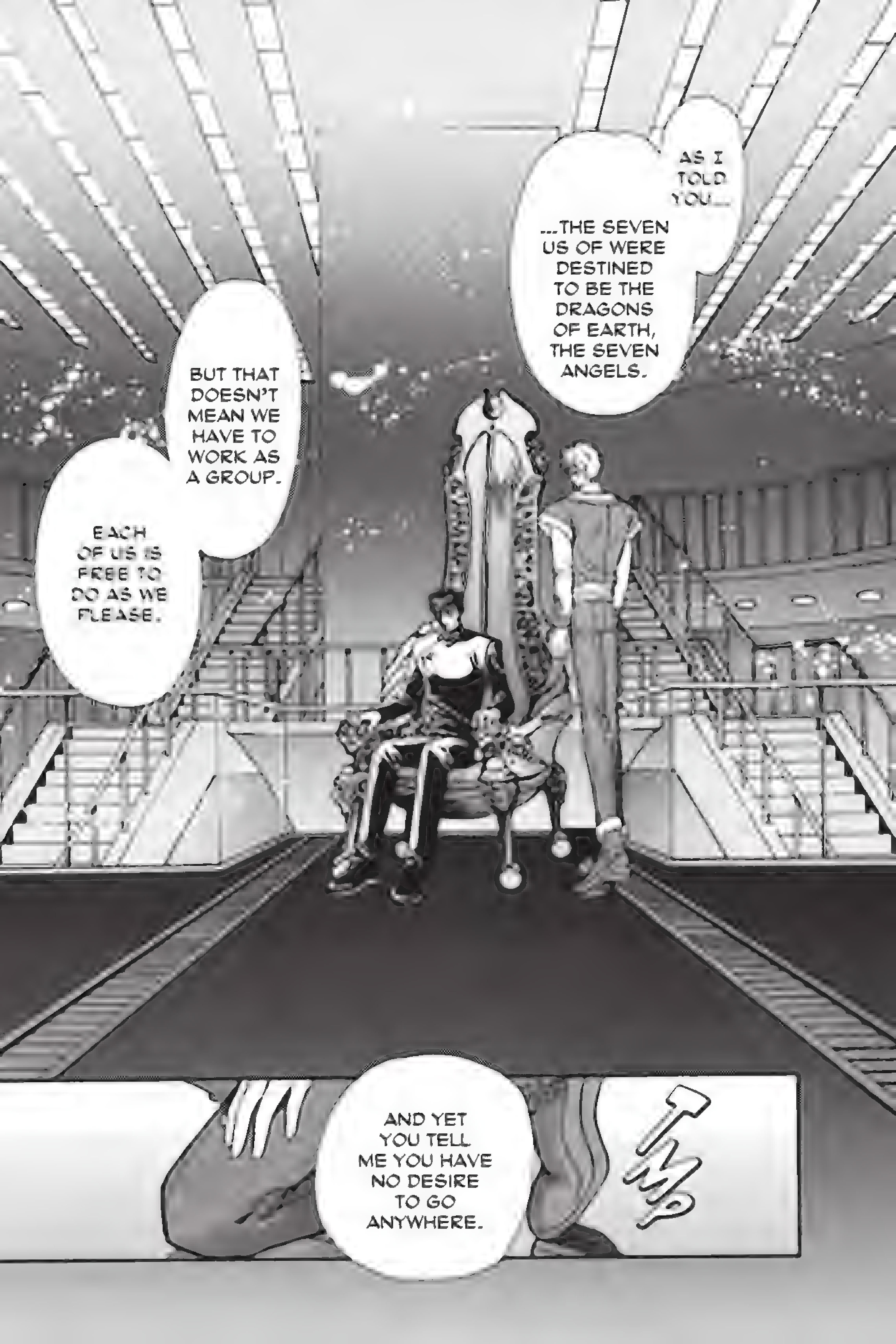
HATAKU DATA
OK

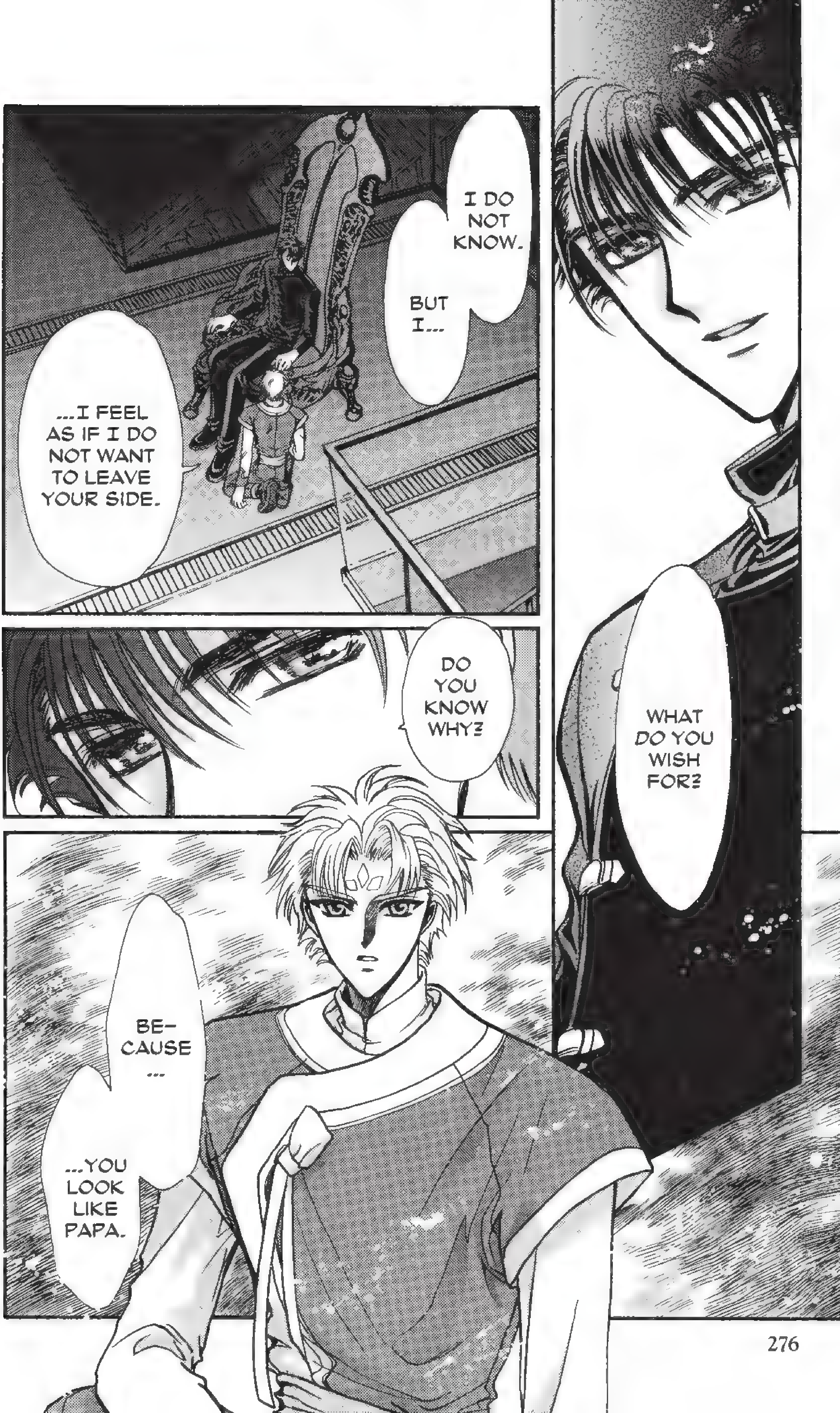

SO SHE REALLY CAN ACCESS ANY COMPUTER, ONLINE OR NOT.
AND NOW, THANKS TO HER SKILLS, WE CAN GET RID OF THAT LAB.

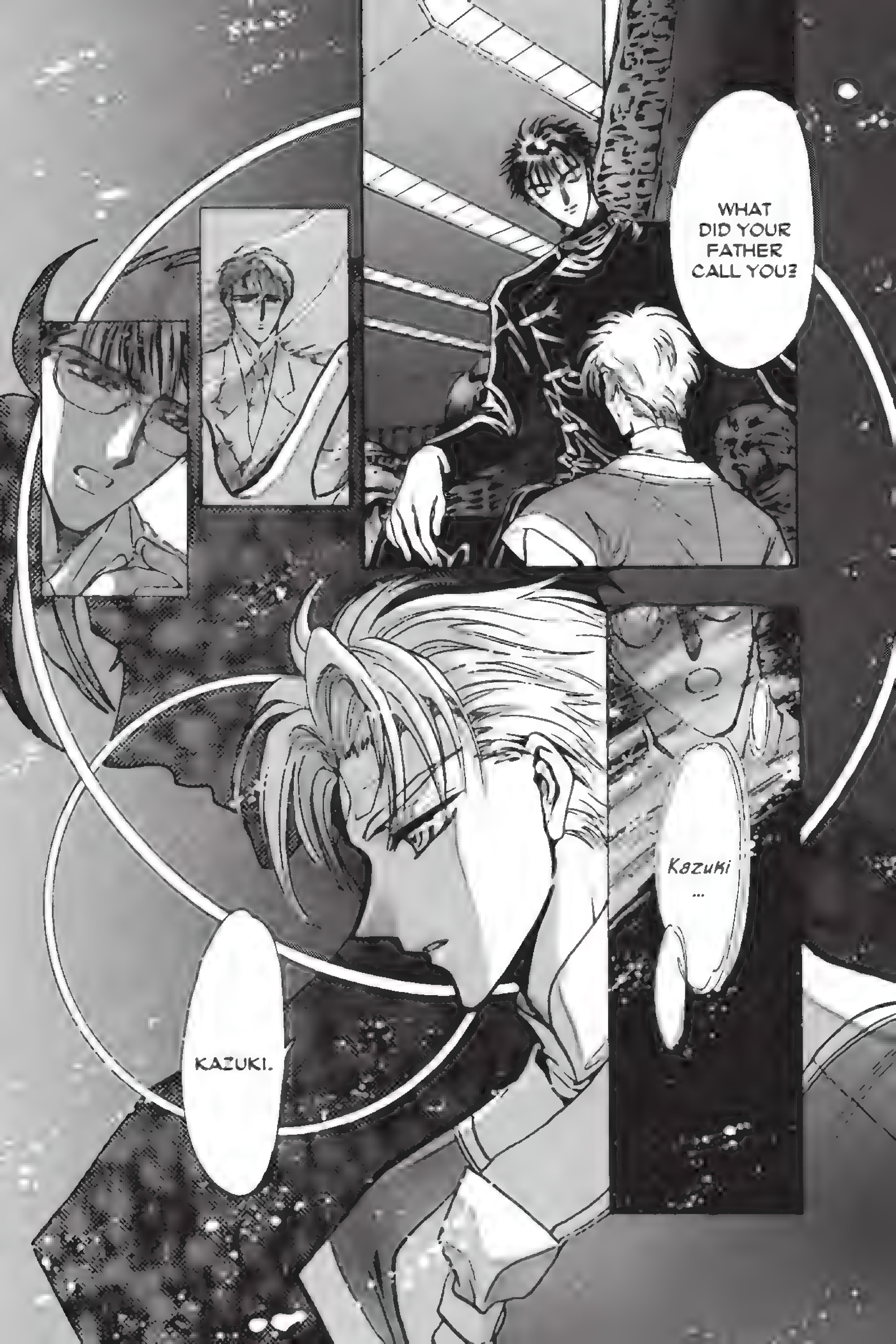
ZWRIP

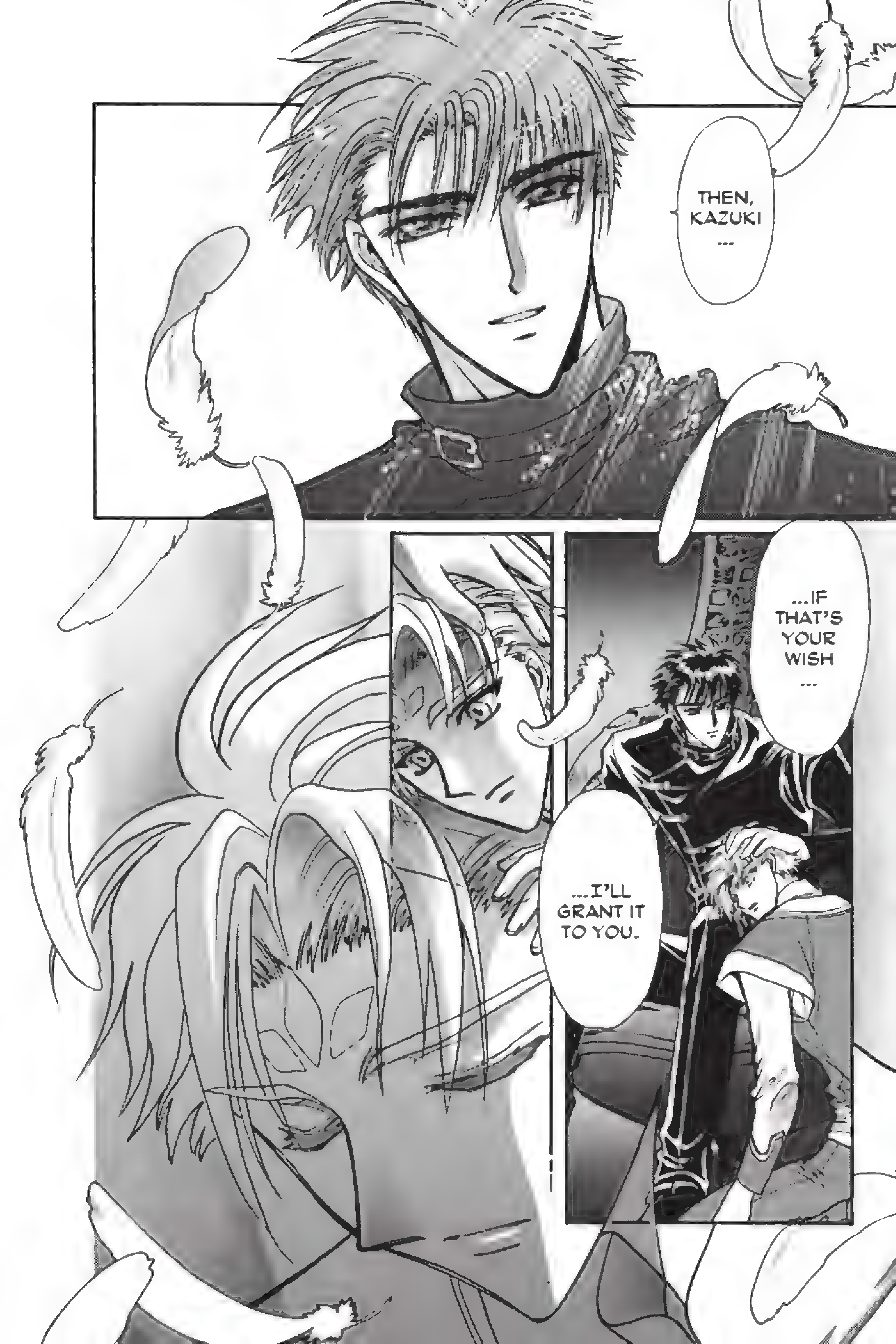

KAMUI

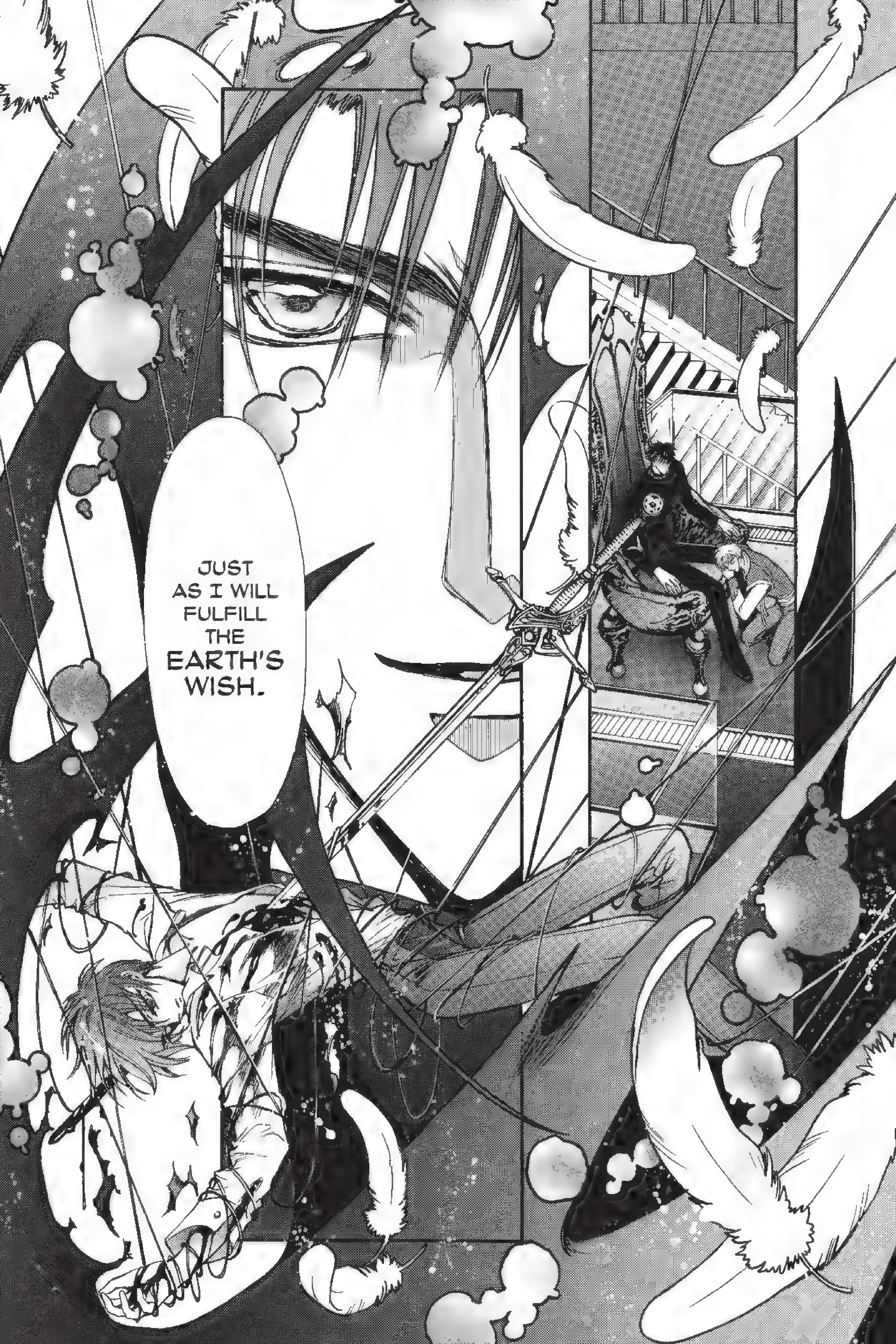

WE'VE OBTAINED THE DATA FROM THE LAB...
...SO NOW WE KNOW HOW TO KEEP YOU ALIVE.
WHY DID YOU DO THAT?
SO YOU DON'T HAVE TO GO BACK THERE.
UNLESS THAT'S WHAT YOU WANT?

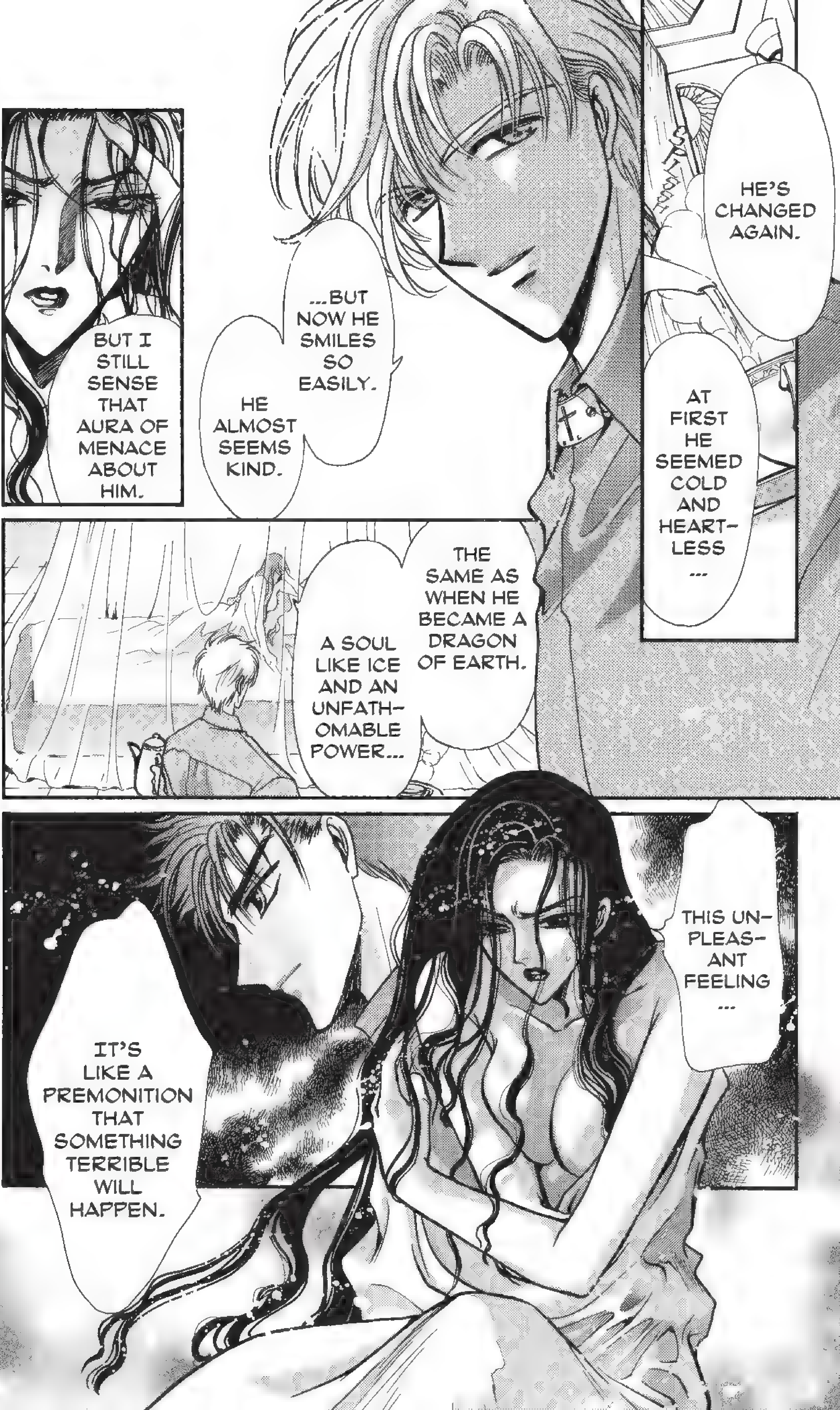

AS I TOLD YOU...
...THE SEVEN US OF WERE DESTINED TO BE THE DRAGONS OF EARTH, THE SEVEN ANGELS.
BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN WE HAVE TO WORK AS A GROUP.
EACH OF US IS FREE TO DO AS WE PLEASE.
TMP
AND YET YOU TELL ME YOU HAVE NO DESIRE TO GO ANYWHERE.

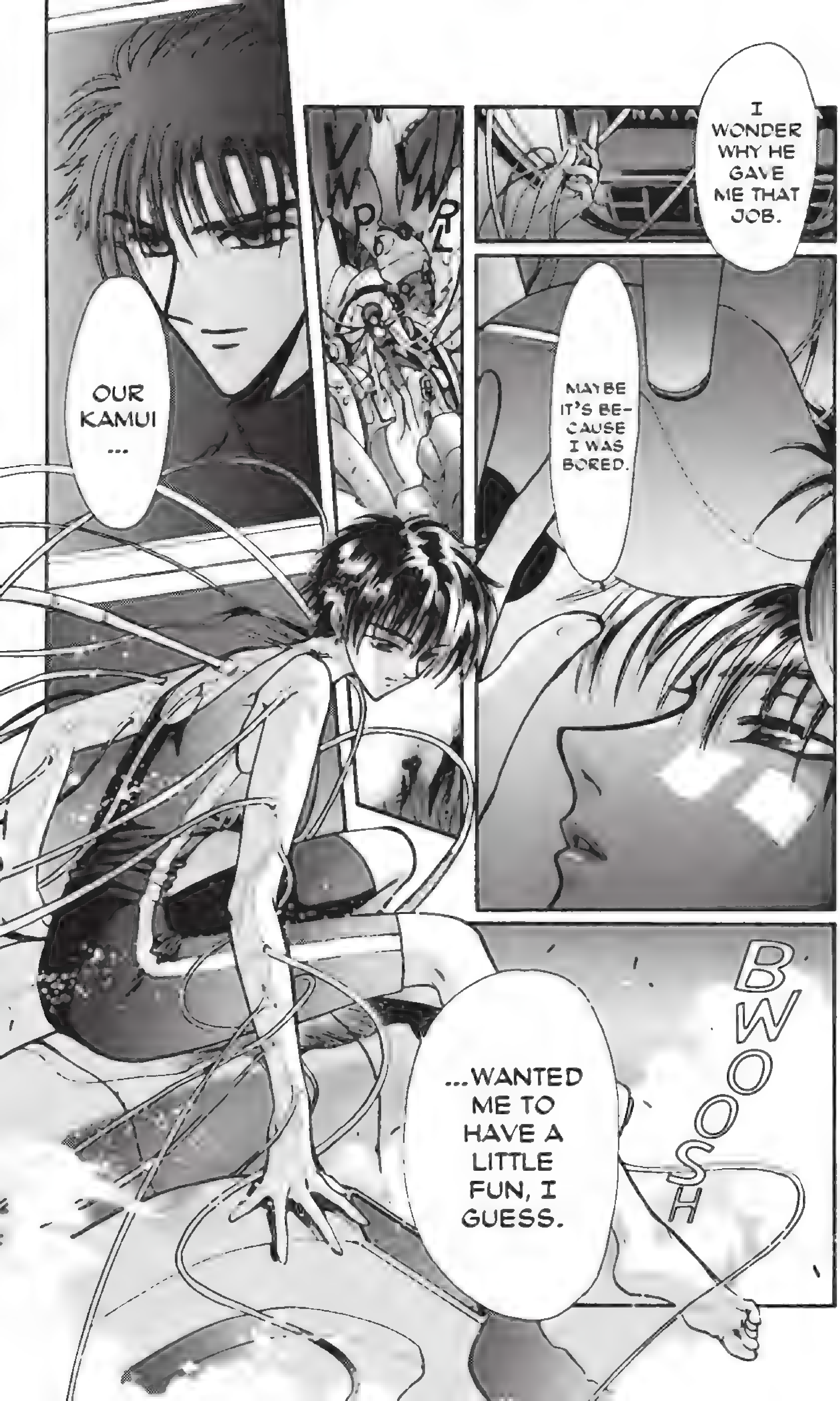

WHAT *DO* YOU WISH FOR?
I DO NOT KNOW.
BUT I...
...I FEEL AS IF I DO NOT WANT TO LEAVE YOUR SIDE.
DO YOU KNOW WHY?
BECAUSE...
...YOU LOOK LIKE PAPA.

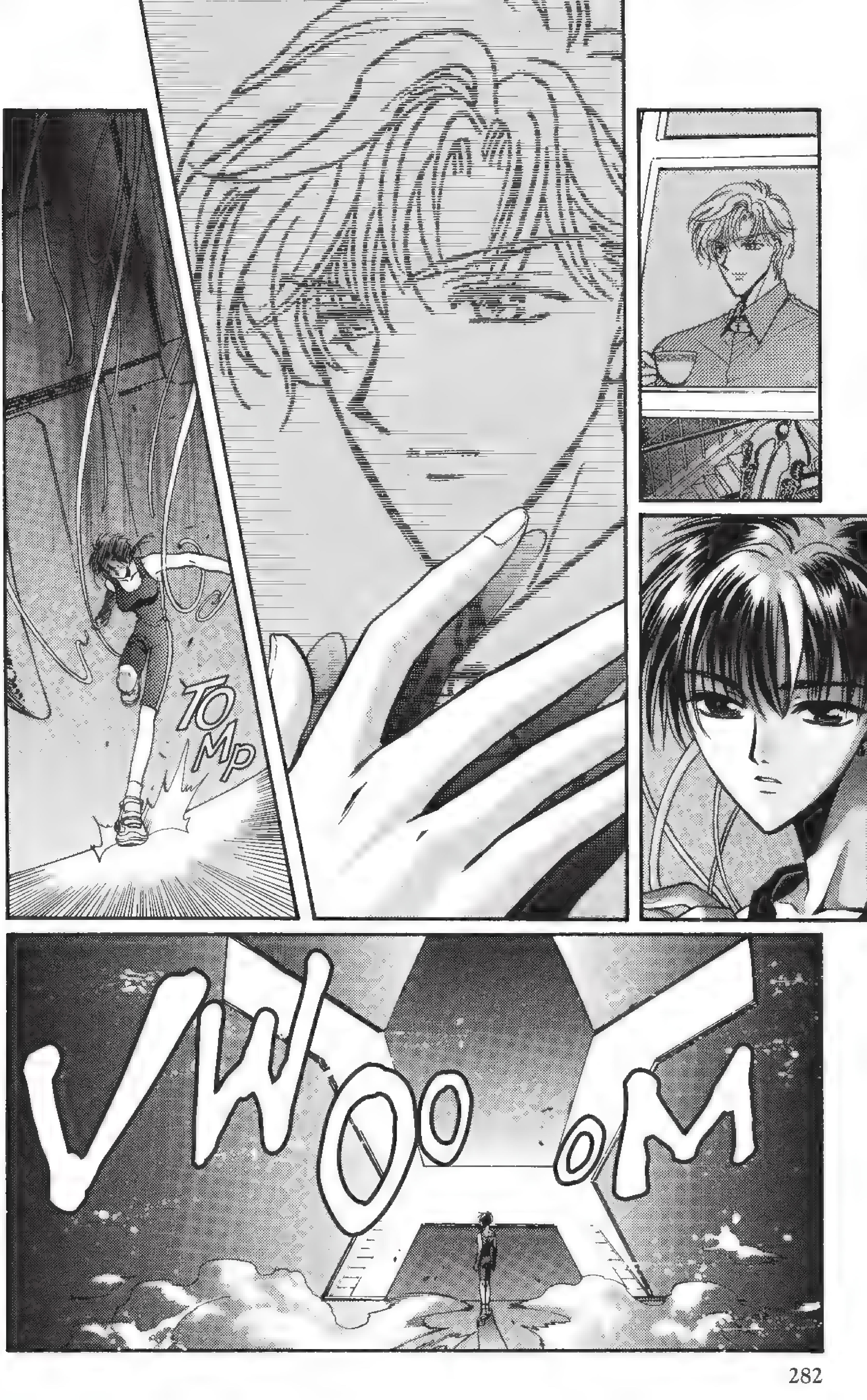

WHAT DID YOUR FATHER CALL YOU?
Kazuki ...
KAZUKI.

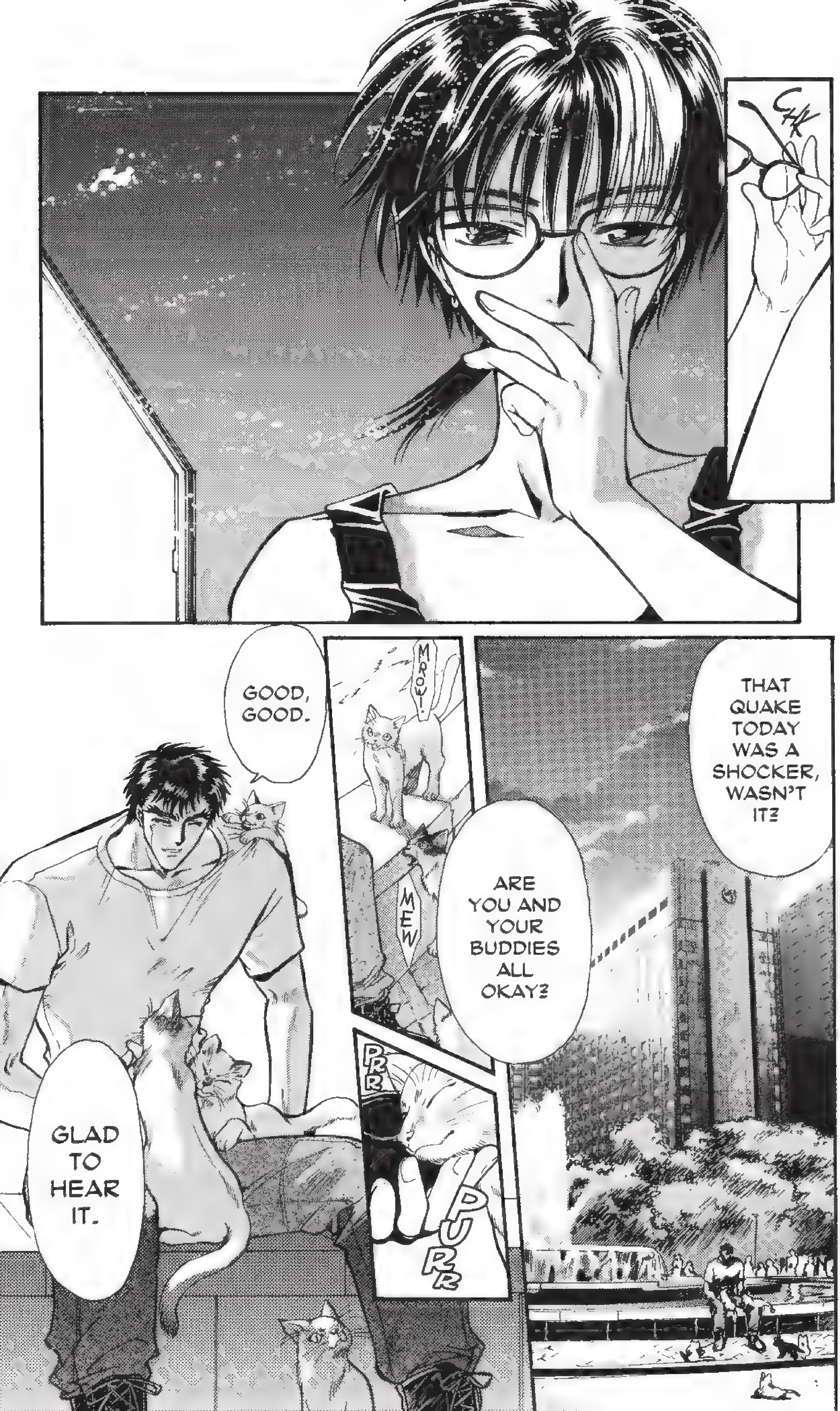

THEN, KAZUKI ...
...IF THAT'S YOUR WISH ...
...I'LL GRANT IT TO YOU.

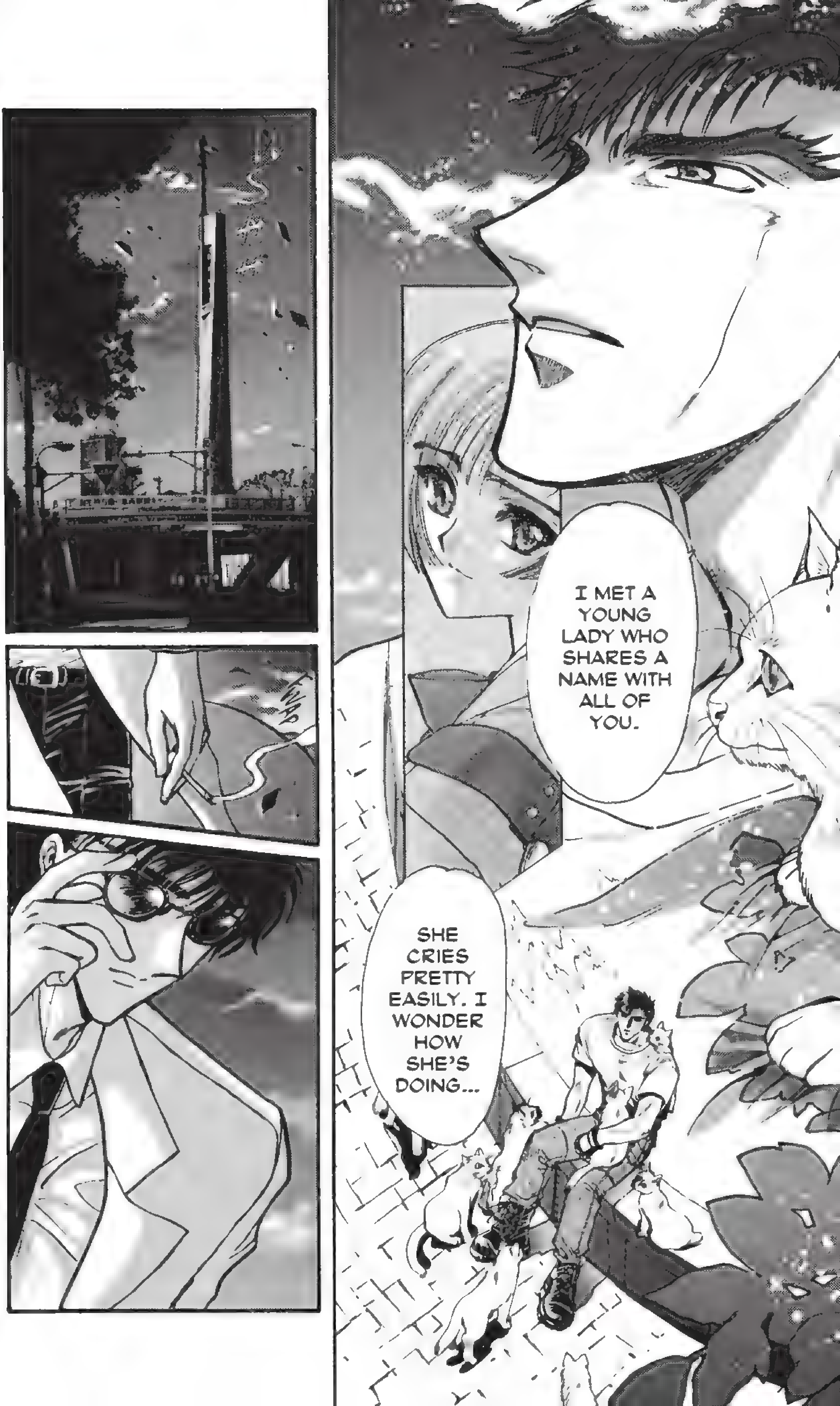

JUST AS I WILL FULFILL THE EARTH'S WISH.

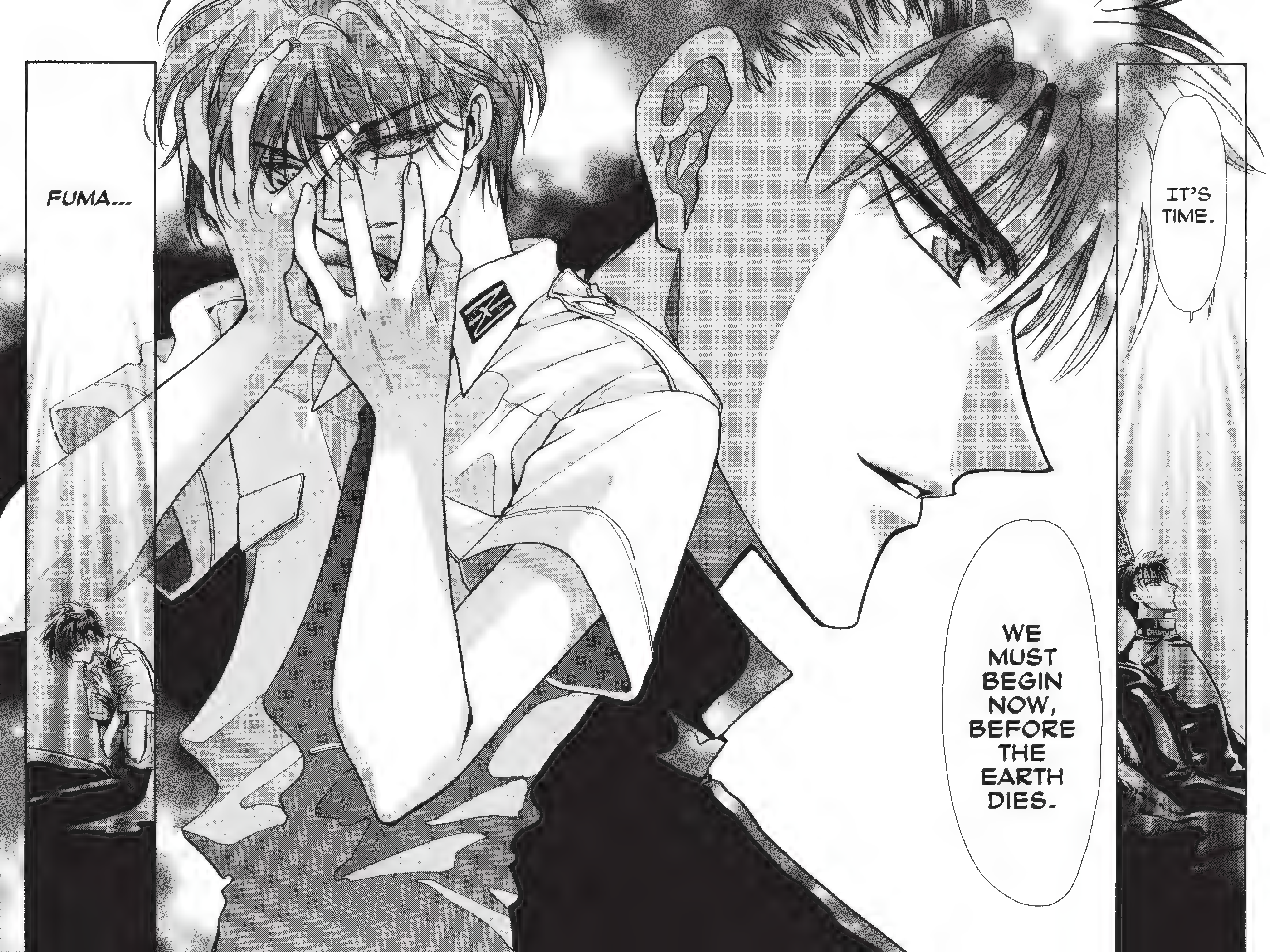

HE'S CHANGED AGAIN.
AT FIRST HE SEEMED COLD AND HEARTLESS...
...BUT NOW HE SMILES SO EASILY.
HE ALMOST SEEMS KIND.
BUT I STILL SENSE THAT AURA OF MENACE ABOUT HIM.
THE SAME AS WHEN HE BECAME A DRAGON OF EARTH.
A SOUL LIKE ICE AND AN UNFATHOMABLE POWER...
THIS UNPLEASANT FEELING...
IT'S LIKE A PREMONITION THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE WILL HAPPEN.

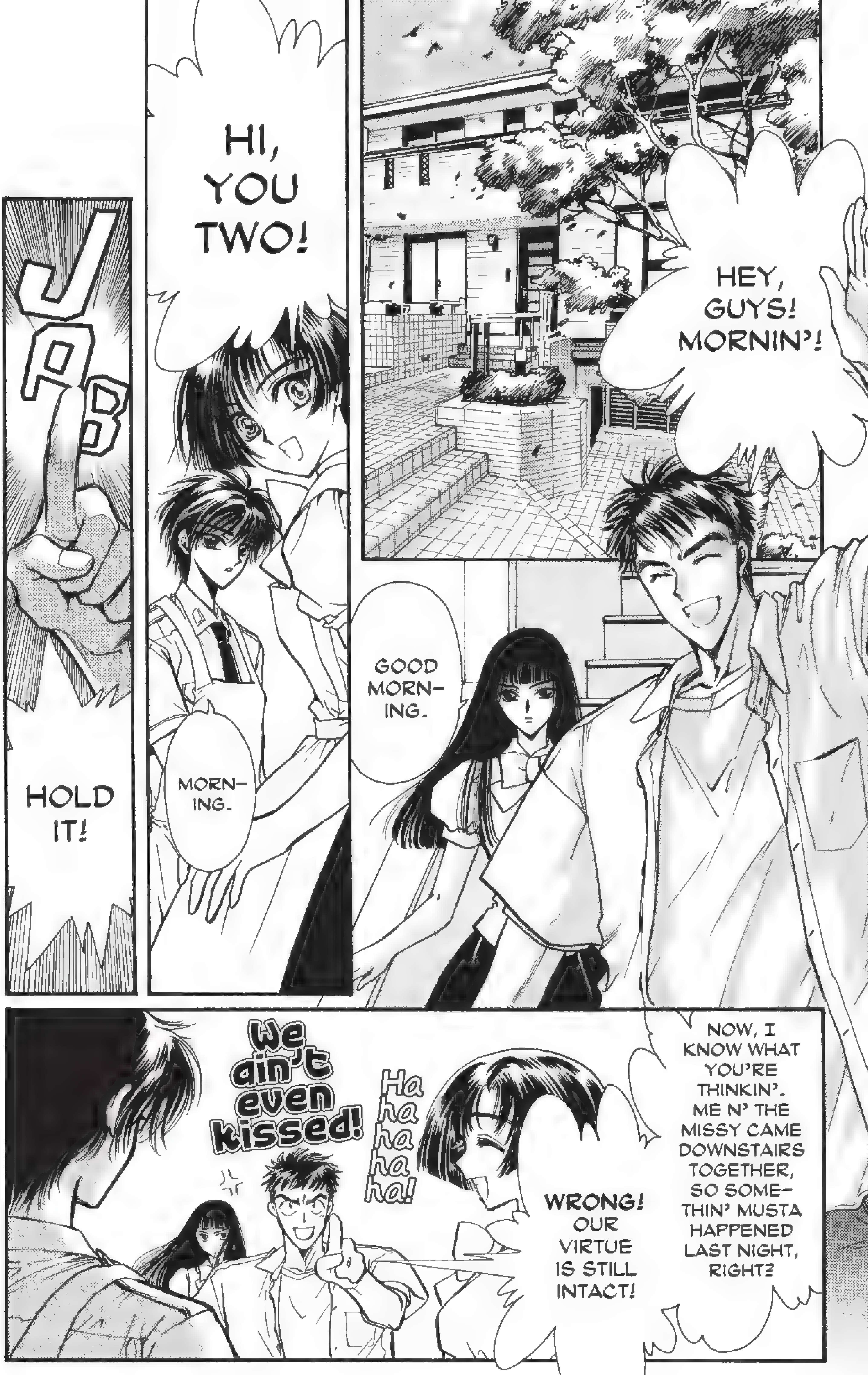

I WONDER WHY HE GAVE ME THAT JOB.
MAYBE IT'S BECAUSE I WAS BORED.
OUR KAMUI...
...WANTED ME TO HAVE A LITTLE FUN, I GUESS.
BWOOOSH

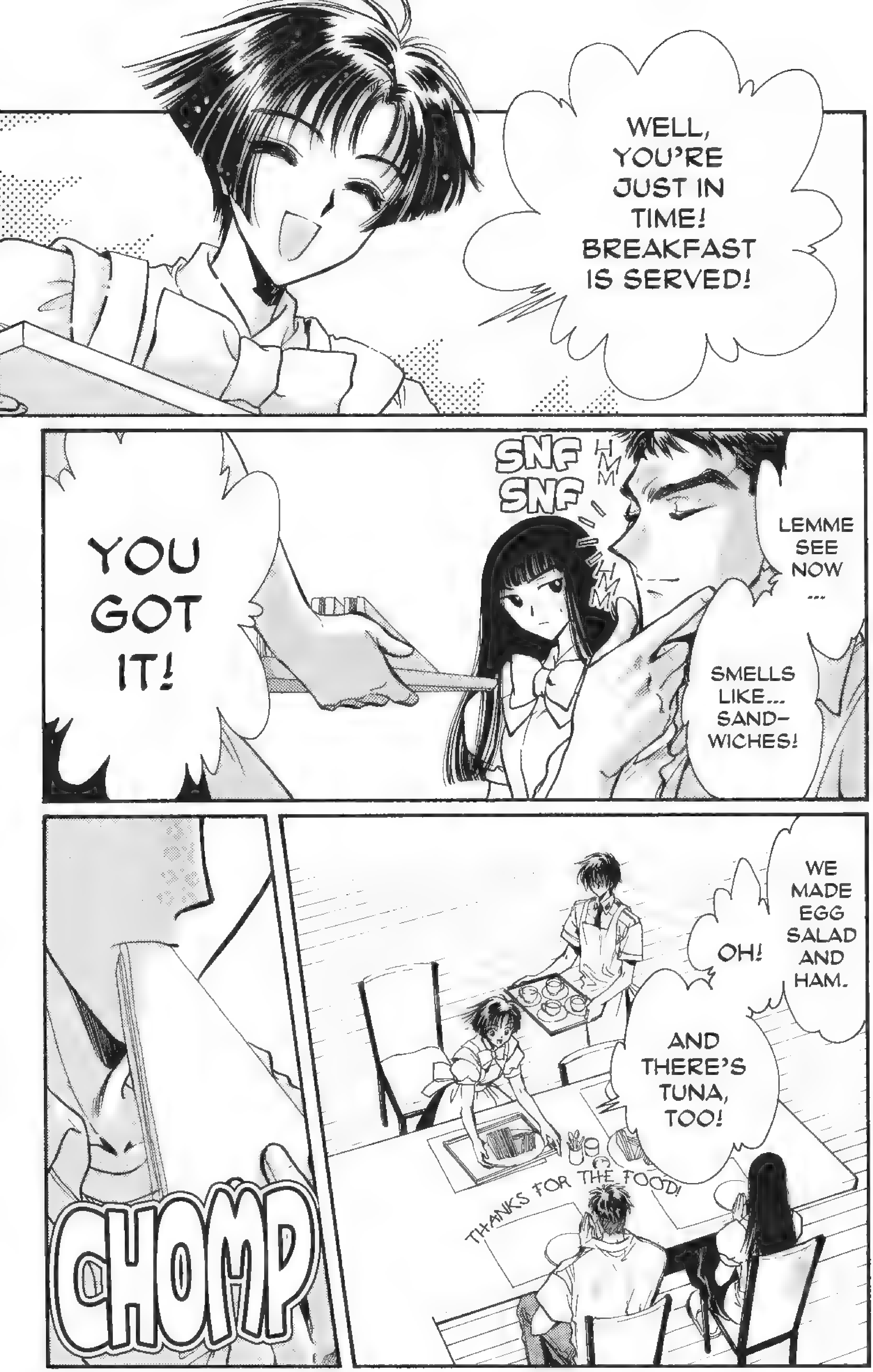

TOMp
VWOOOM

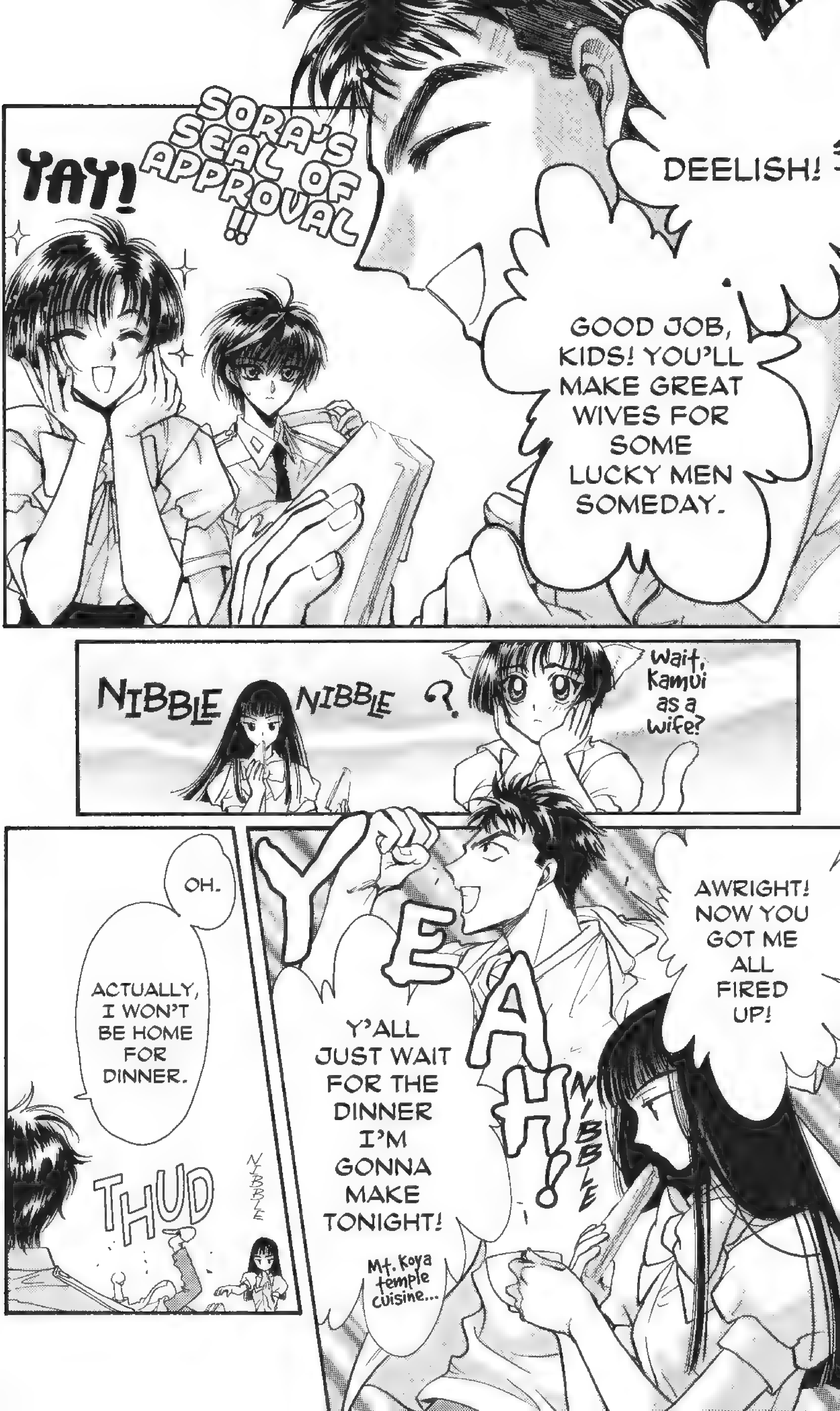

CHK
THAT QUAKE TODAY WAS A SHOCKER, WASN'T IT?
ARE YOU AND YOUR BUDDIES ALL OKAY?
MROW!
MEW
PRR
PURR
GOOD, GOOD.
GLAD TO HEAR IT.

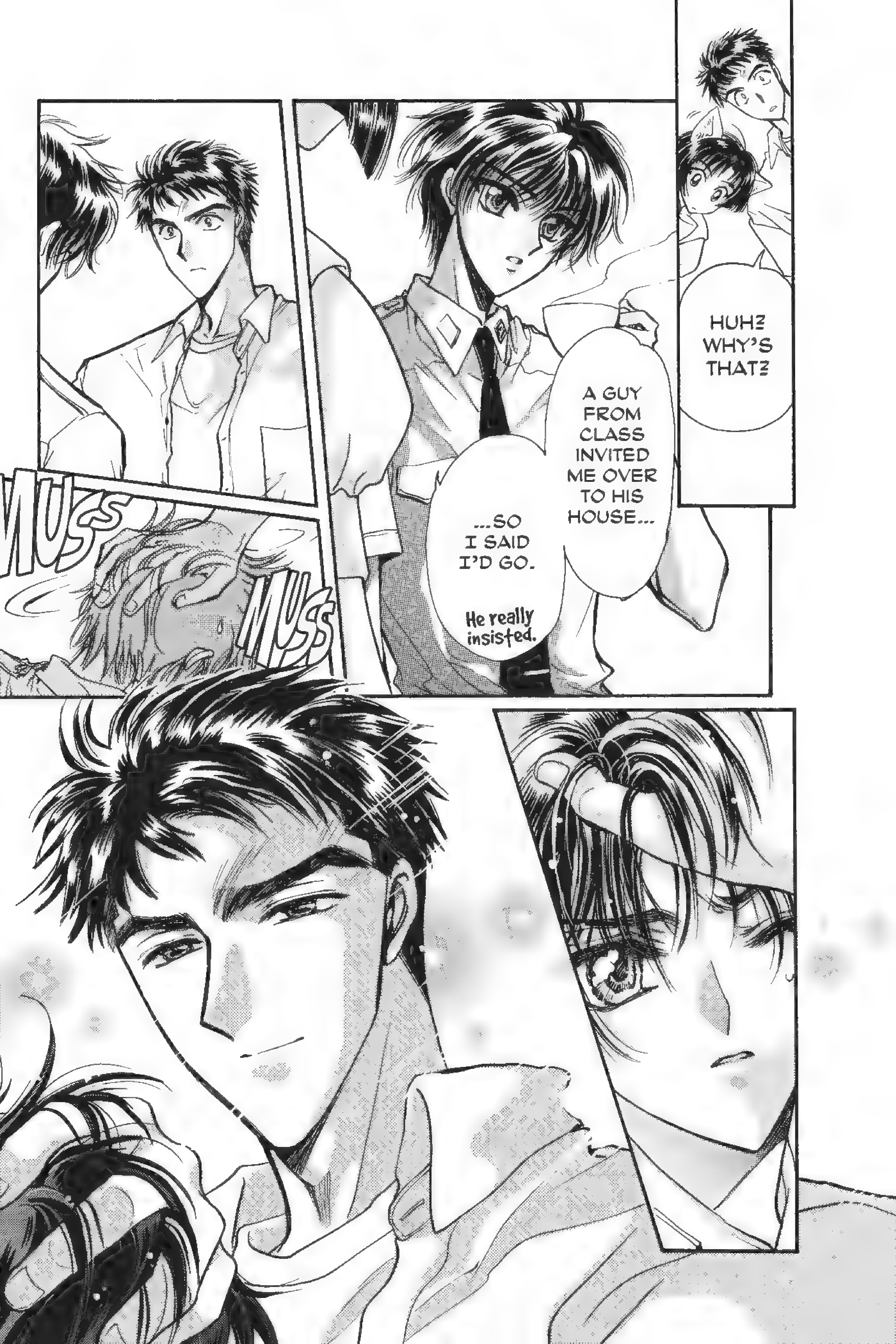

I MET A YOUNG LADY WHO SHARES A NAME WITH ALL OF YOU.
SHE CRIES PRETTY EASILY. I WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING...

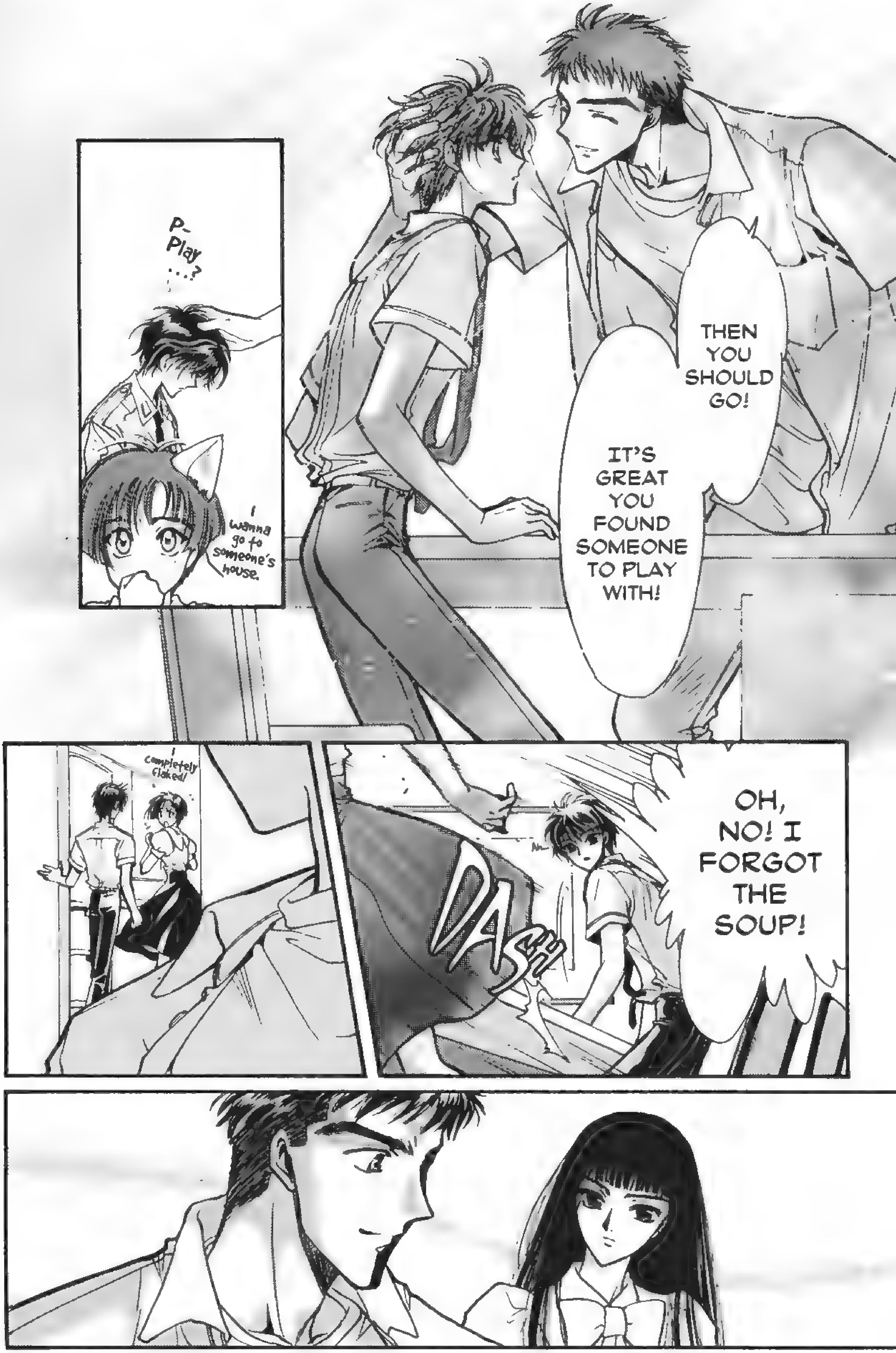

IT'S TIME.
WE MUST BEGIN NOW, BEFORE THE EARTH DIES.
FUMA...

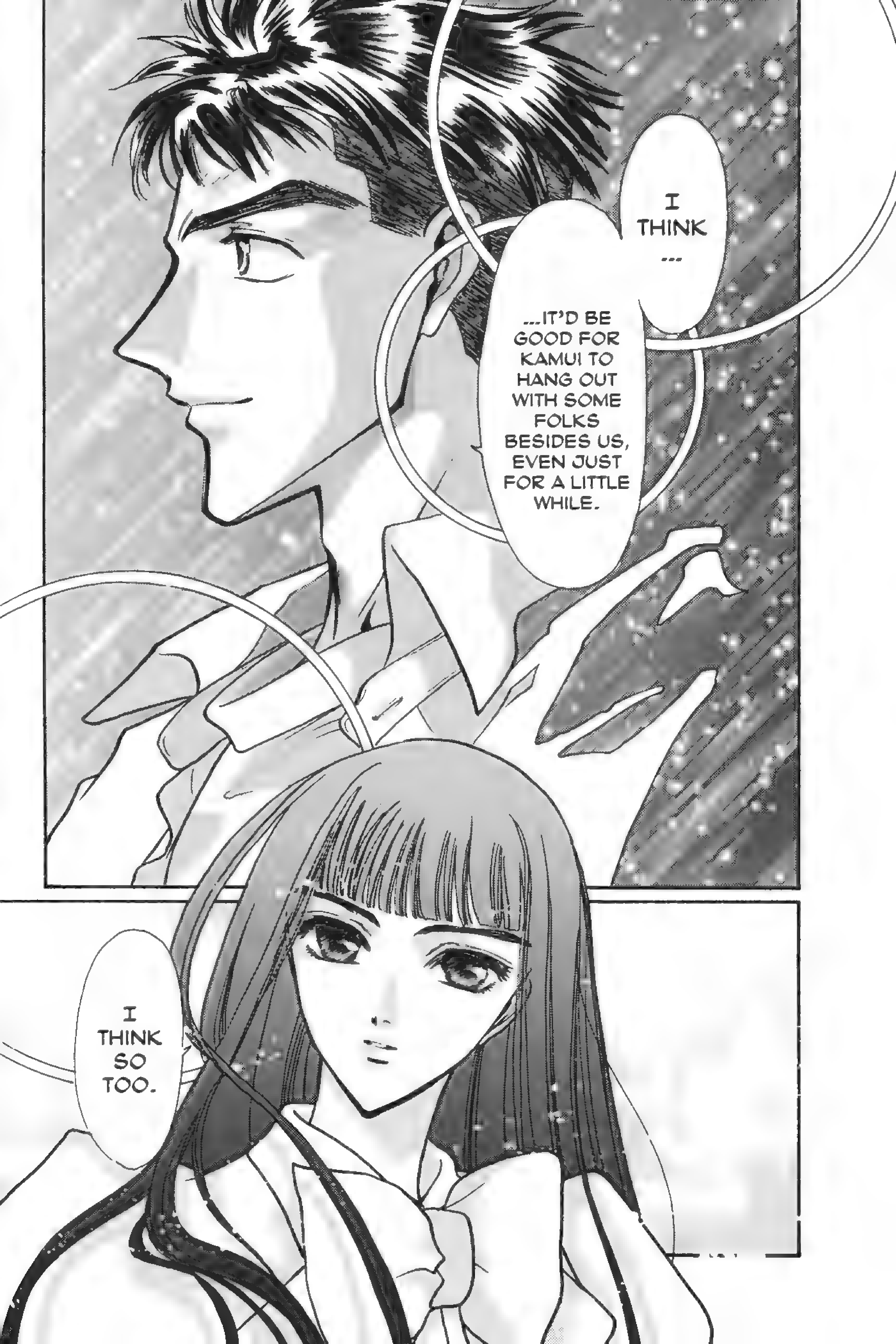

HEY, GUYS! MORNIN'!
GOOD MORNING.
HI, YOU TWO!
MORNING.
JAB
HOLD IT!
NOW, I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKIN'. ME N' THE MISSY CAME DOWNSTAIRS TOGETHER, SO SOMETHIN' MUSTA HAPPENED LAST NIGHT, RIGHT?
WRONG! OUR VIRTUE IS STILL INTACT!
Ha ha ha ha ha!
We ain't even kissed!

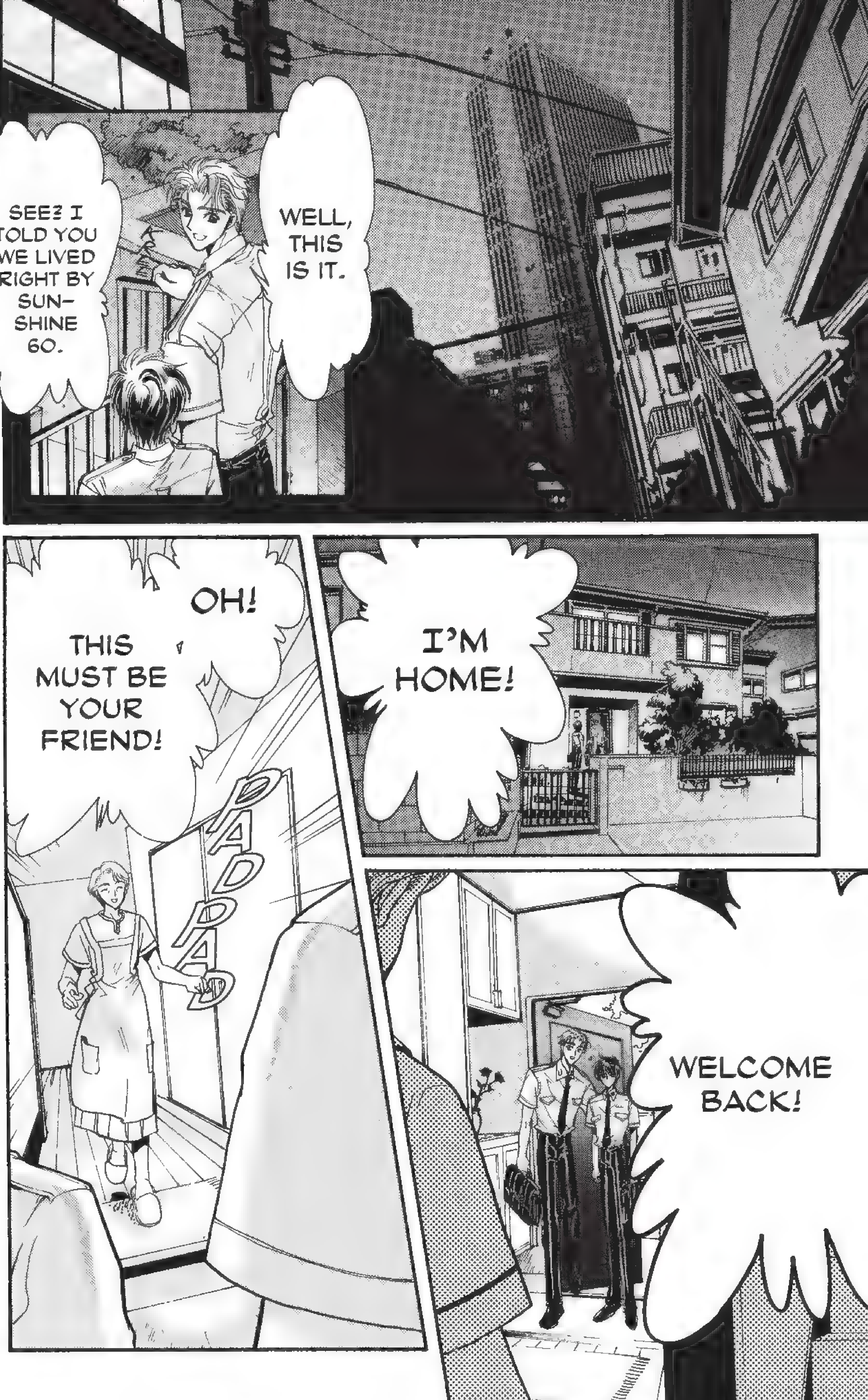

WELL, YOU'RE JUST IN TIME! BREAKFAST IS SERVED!
SNF SNF
HMM————HMM
LEMME SEE NOW...
SMELLS LIKE... SANDWICHES!
YOU GOT IT!
WE MADE EGG SALAD AND HAM.
OH!
AND THERE'S TUNA, TOO!
THANKS FOR THE FOOD!
CHOMP

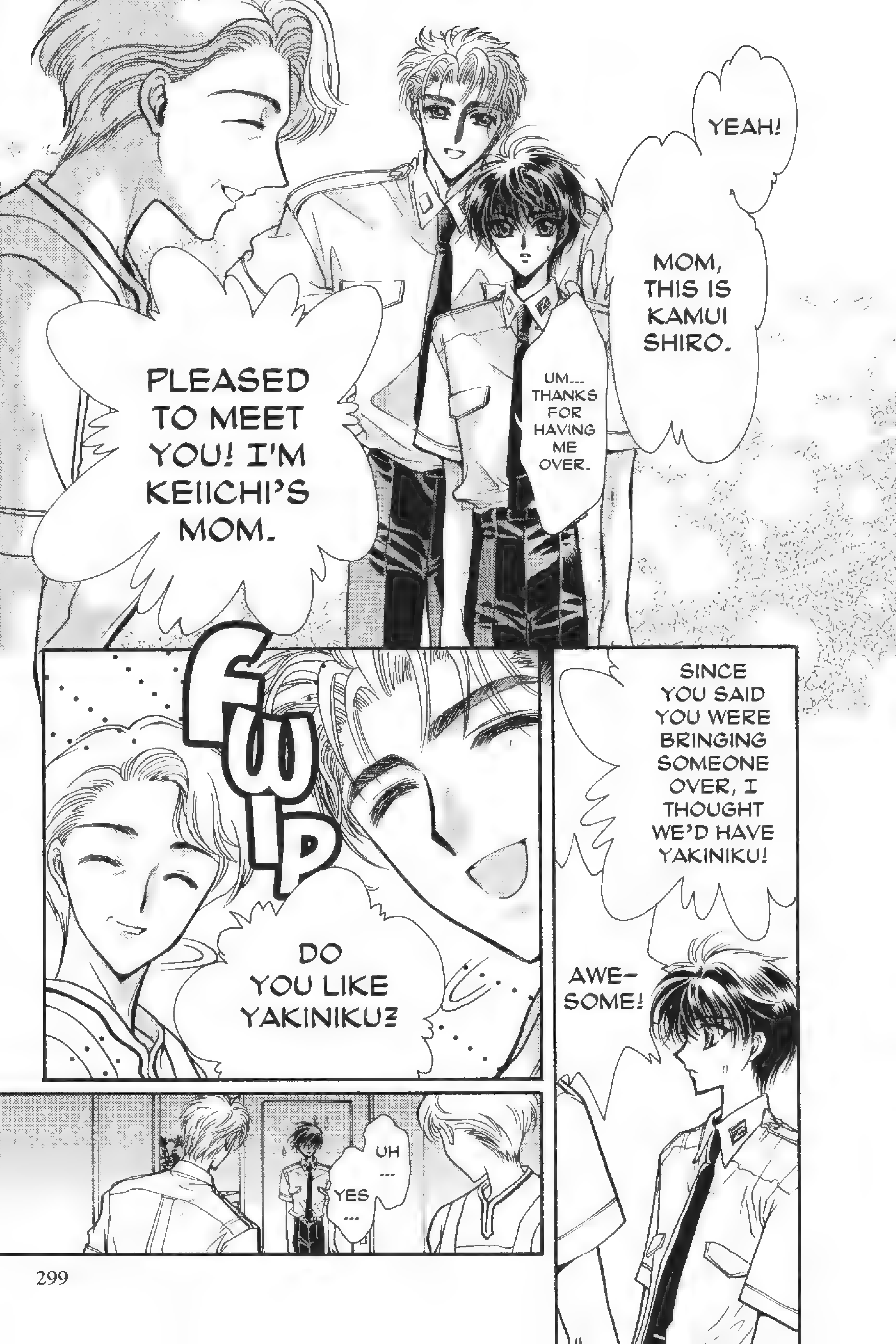

DEELISH!
GOOD JOB, KIDS! YOU'LL MAKE GREAT WIVES FOR SOME LUCKY MEN SOMEDAY.
SORA'S SEAL OF APPROVAL!!
YAY!
Wait, Kamui as a wife?
?
NIBBLE NIBBLE
AWRIGHT! NOW YOU GOT ME ALL FIRED UP!
YEAH!
Y'ALL JUST WAIT FOR THE DINNER I'M GONNA MAKE TONIGHT!
NIBBLE
Mt. Koya temple cuisine...
OH.
ACTUALLY, I WON'T BE HOME FOR DINNER.
THUD
NIBBLE

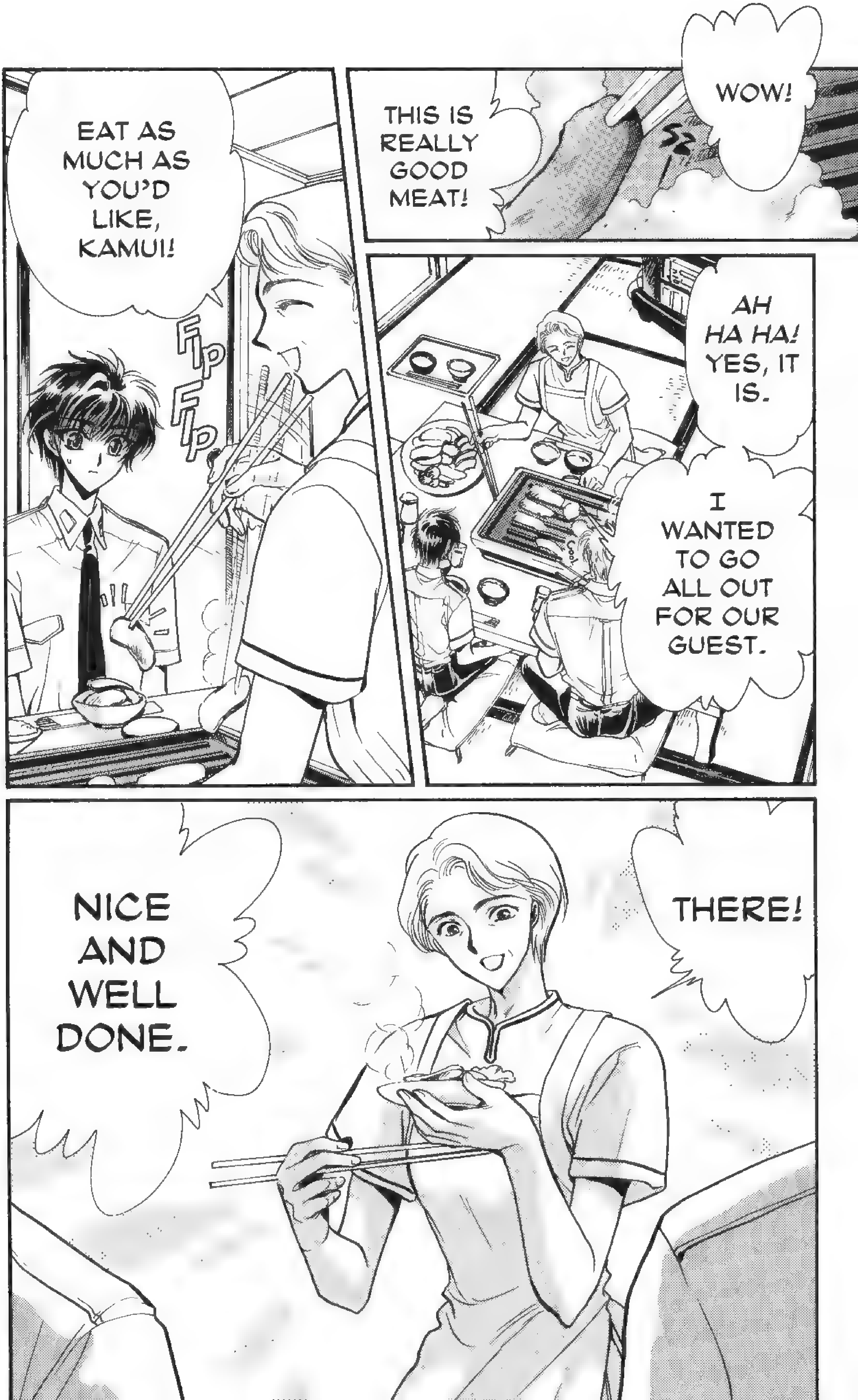

HUH? WHY'S THAT?
A GUY FROM CLASS INVITED ME OVER TO HIS HOUSE...
...SO I SAID I'D GO.
He really insisted.
MUSS
MUSS

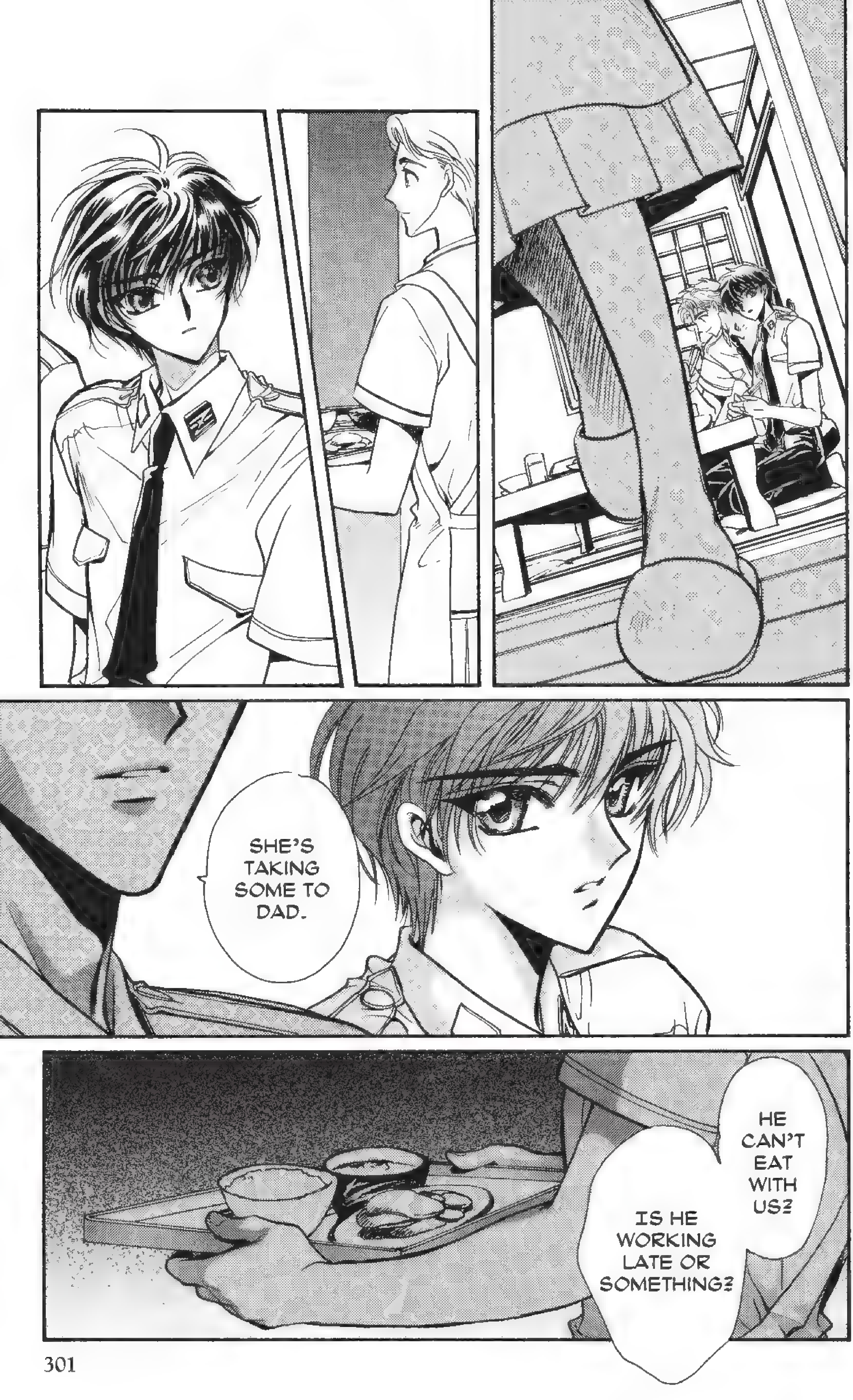

THEN YOU SHOULD GO!
IT'S GREAT YOU FOUND SOMEONE TO PLAY WITH!
P-Play ...?
I wanna go to someone's house.
OH, NO! I FORGOT THE SOUP!
DASH
I completely flaked!

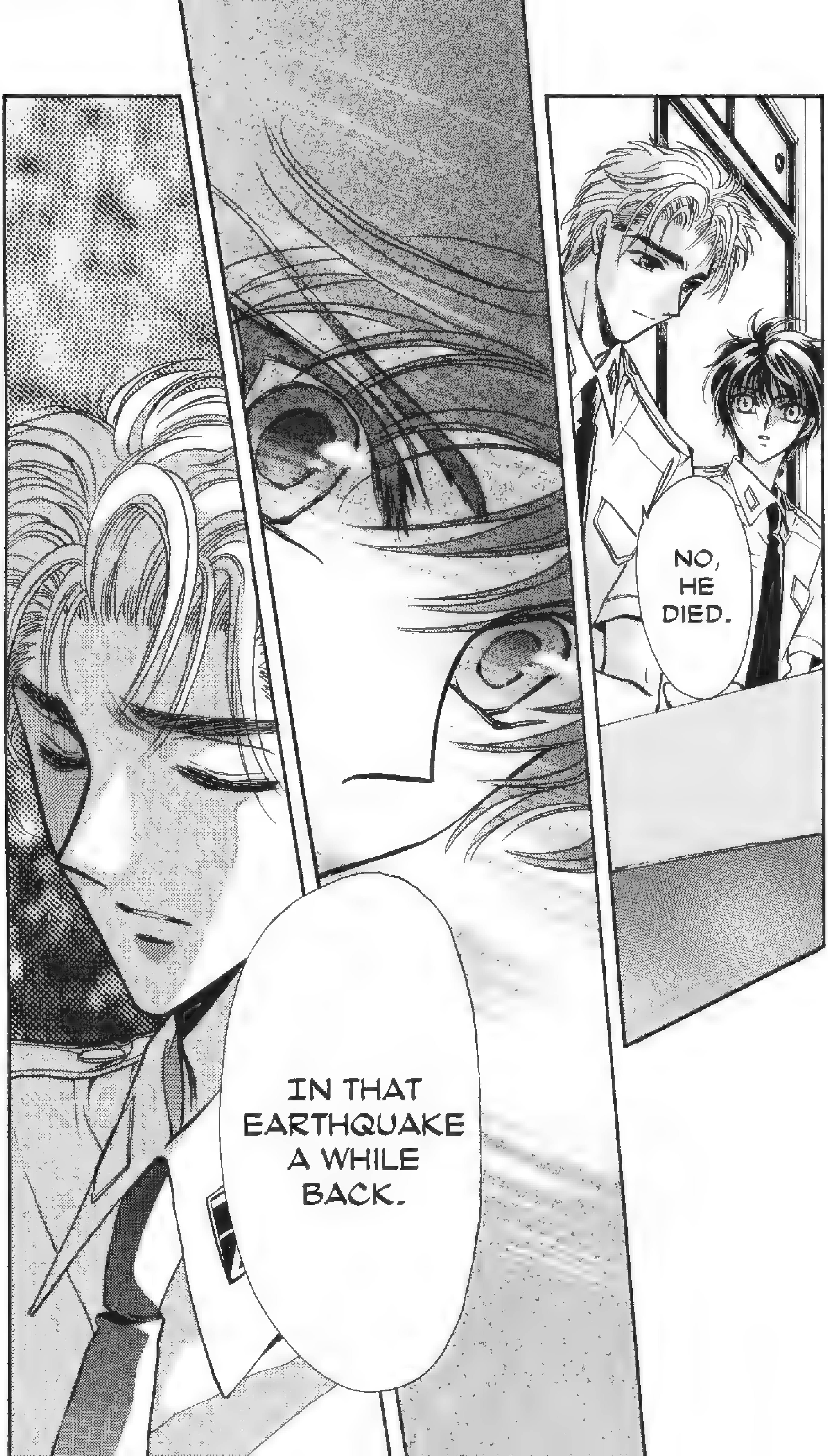

I THINK ...
...IT'D BE GOOD FOR KAMUI TO HANG OUT WITH SOME FOLKS BESIDES US, EVEN JUST FOR A LITTLE WHILE.
I THINK SO TOO.

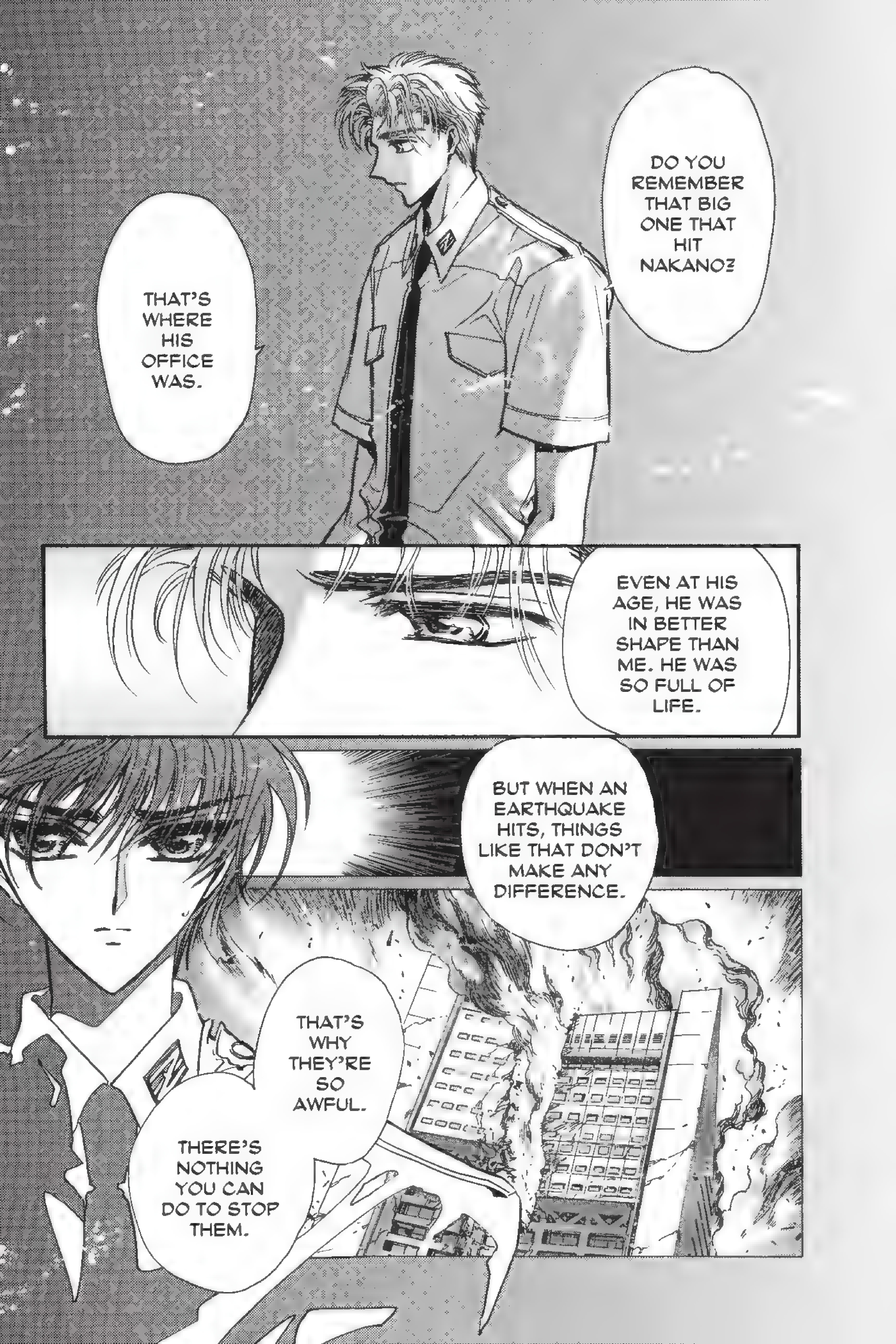

WELL, THIS IS IT.
SEE? I TOLD YOU WE LIVED RIGHT BY SUNSHINE 60.
I'M HOME!
WELCOME BACK!
OH!
THIS MUST BE YOUR FRIEND!
PAD PAD

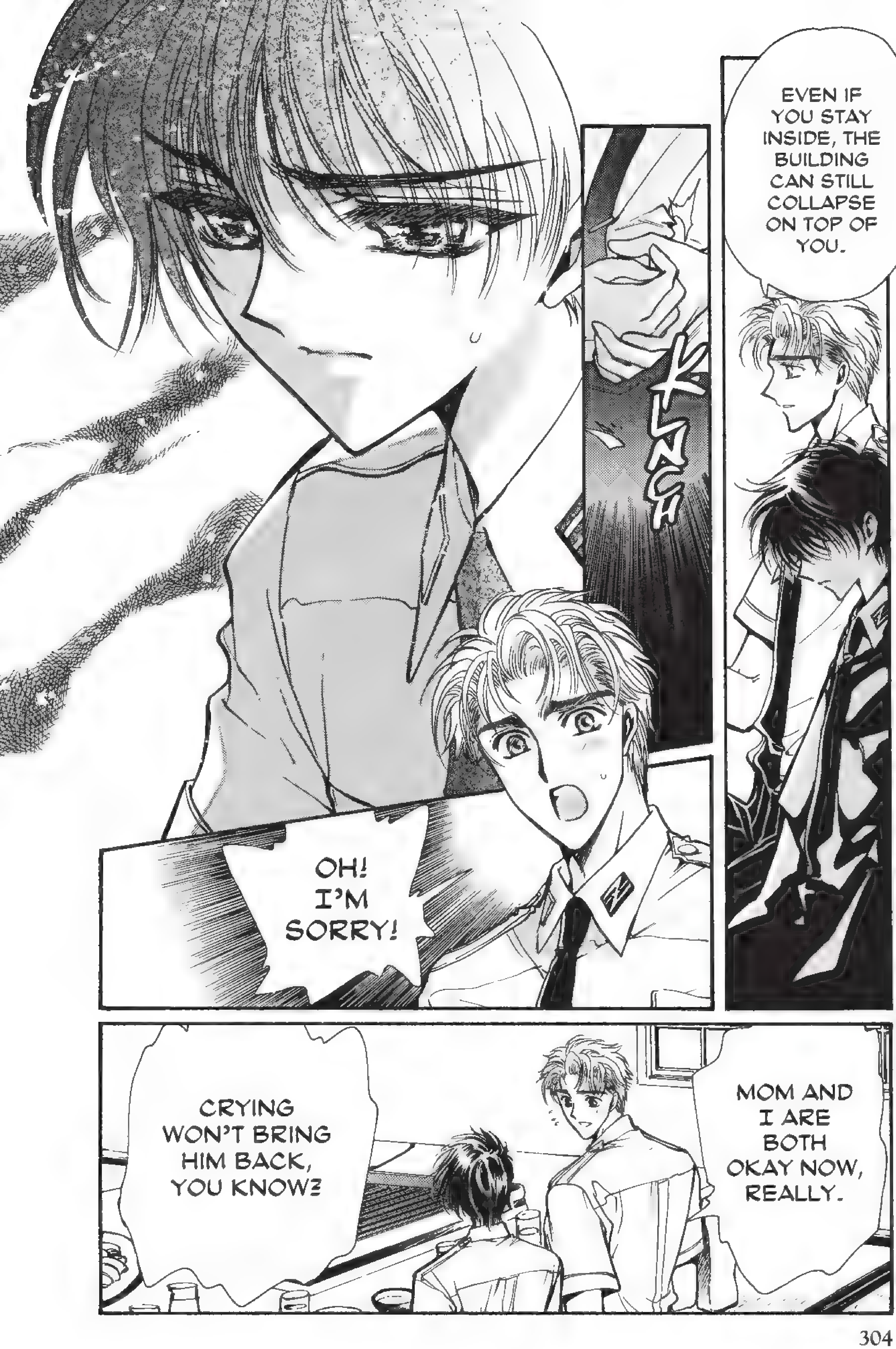

YEAH!
MOM, THIS IS KAMUI SHIRO.
UM... THANKS FOR HAVING ME OVER.
PLEASED TO MEET YOU! I'M KEIICHI'S MOM.
SINCE YOU SAID YOU WERE BRINGING SOMEONE OVER, I THOUGHT WE'D HAVE YAKINIKU!
AWE-SOME!
FWIP
DO YOU LIKE YAKINIKU?
UH... YES...

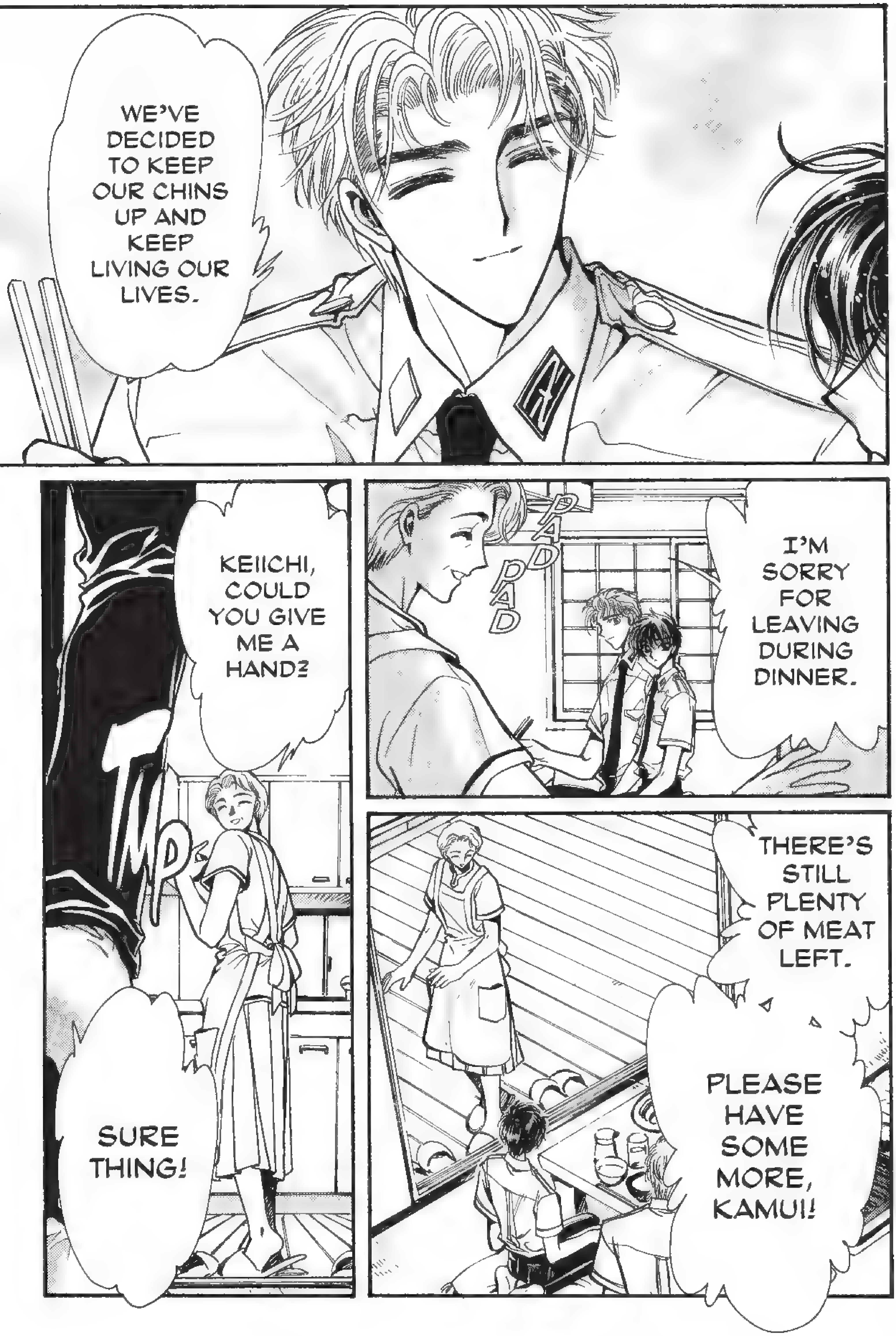

WOW!
SZ
THIS IS REALLY GOOD MEAT!
AH HA HA! YES, IT IS.
I WANTED TO GO ALL OUT FOR OUR GUEST.
EAT AS MUCH AS YOU'D LIKE, KAMUI!
FLIP FLIP
THERE!
NICE AND WELL DONE.

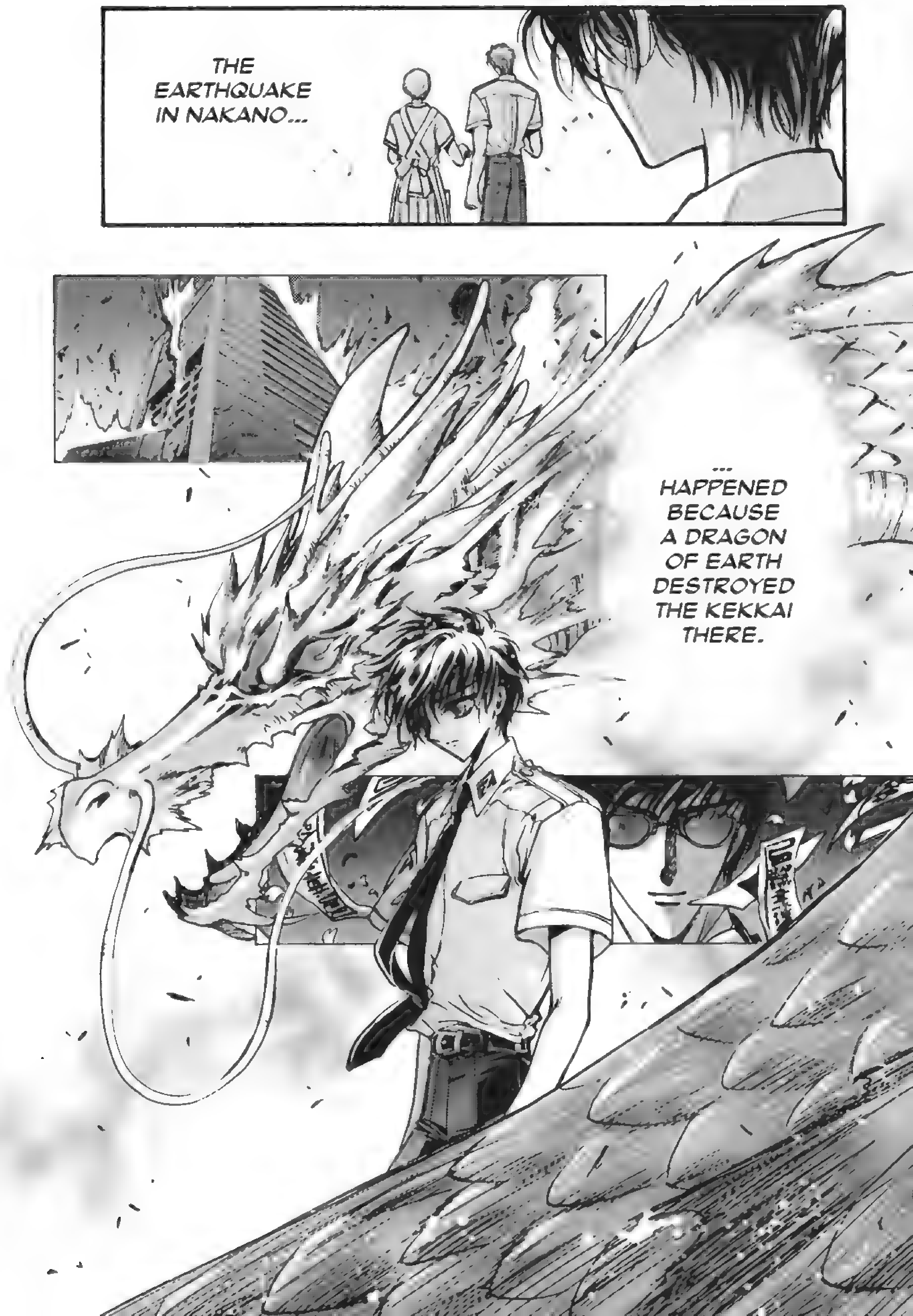

SHE'S TAKING SOME TO DAD.
HE CAN'T EAT WITH US?
IS HE WORKING LATE OR SOMETHING?

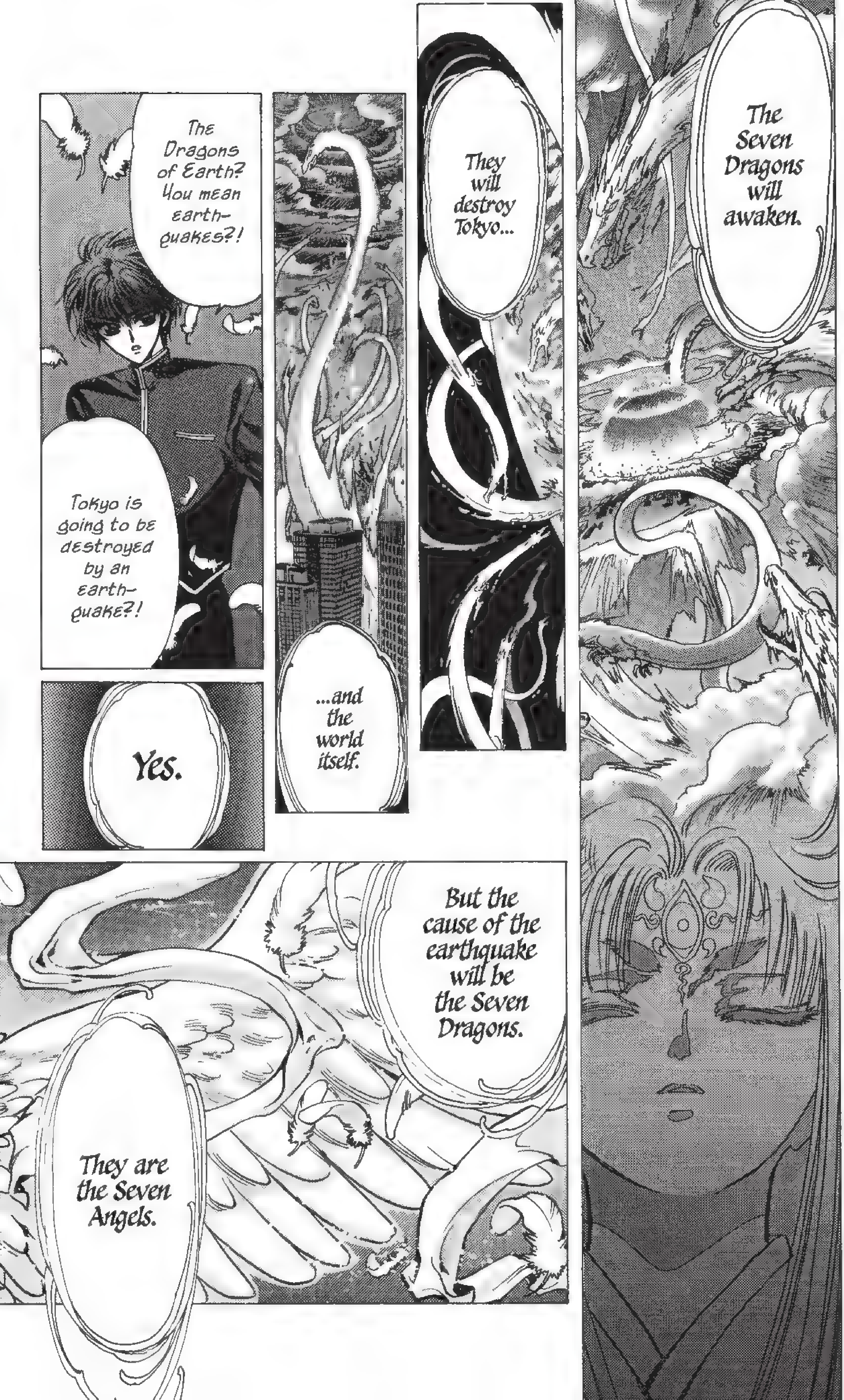

NO, HE DIED.
IN THAT EARTHQUAKE A WHILE BACK.

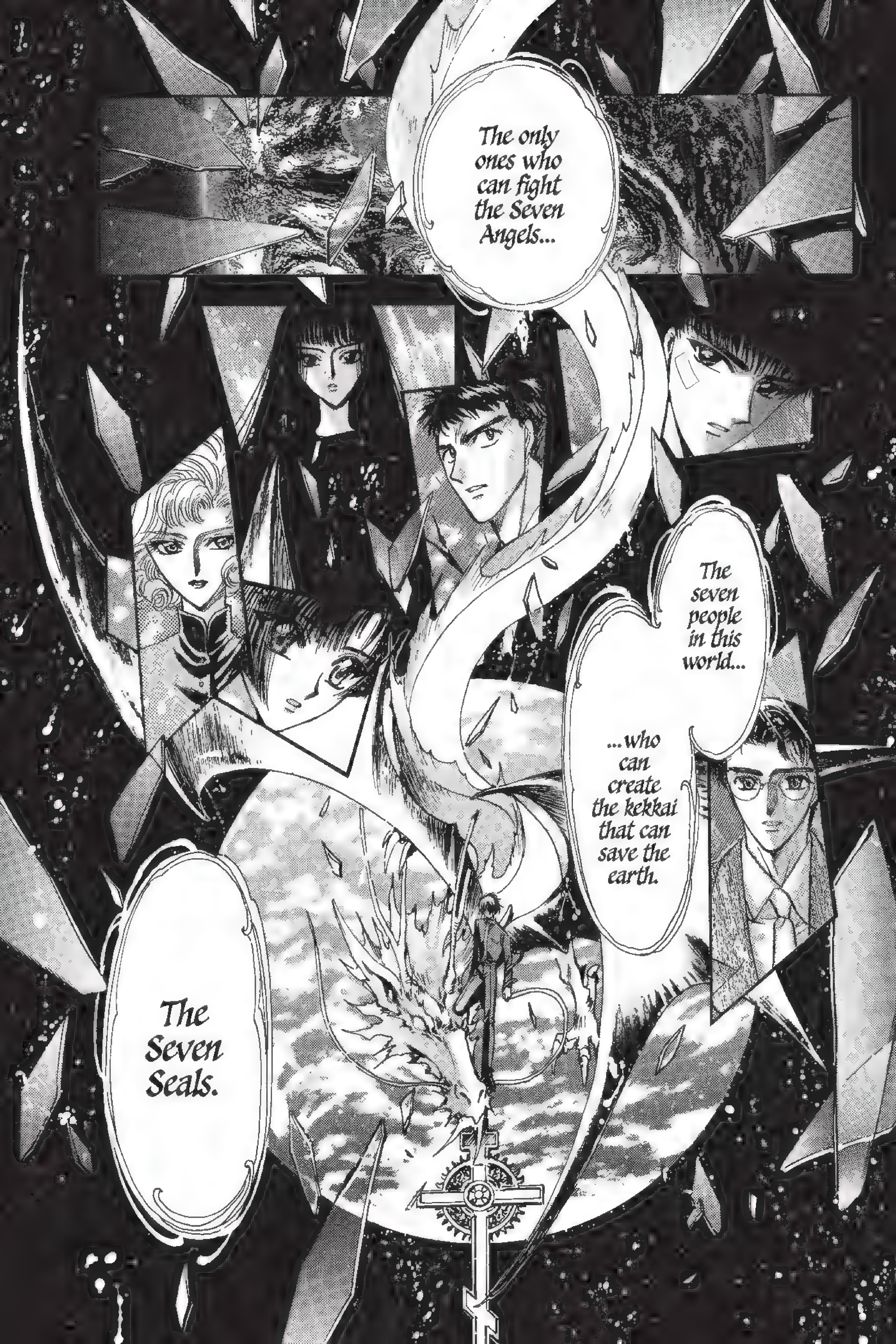

DO YOU REMEMBER THAT BIG ONE THAT HIT NAKANO?
THAT'S WHERE HIS OFFICE WAS.
EVEN AT HIS AGE, HE WAS IN BETTER SHAPE THAN ME. HE WAS SO FULL OF LIFE.
BUT WHEN AN EARTHQUAKE HITS, THINGS LIKE THAT DON'T MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE.
THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SO AWFUL.
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO TO STOP THEM.

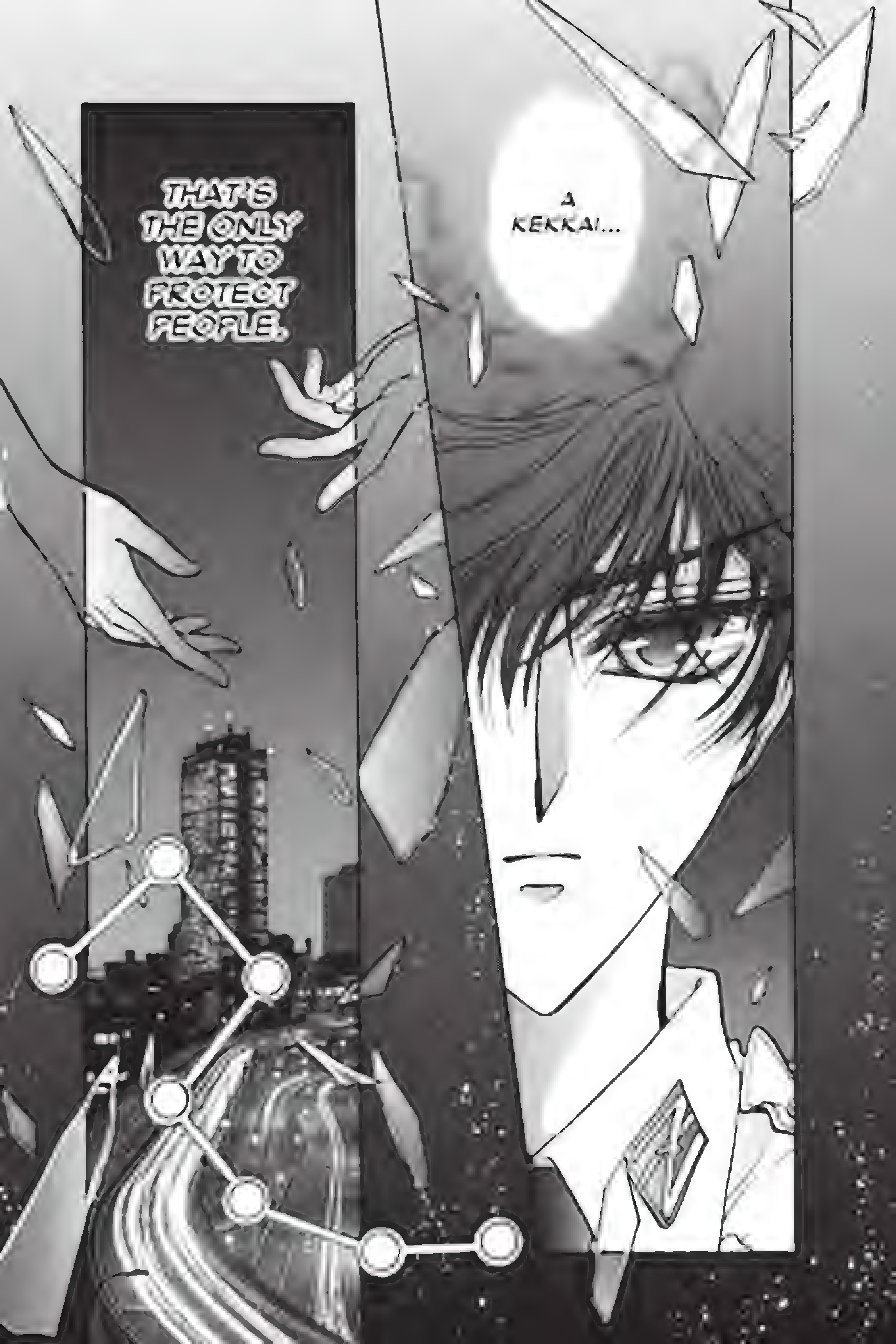

EVEN IF YOU STAY INSIDE, THE BUILDING CAN STILL COLLAPSE ON TOP OF YOU.
KLNCH
OH! I'M SORRY!
MOM AND I ARE BOTH OKAY NOW, REALLY.
CRYING WON'T BRING HIM BACK, YOU KNOW?

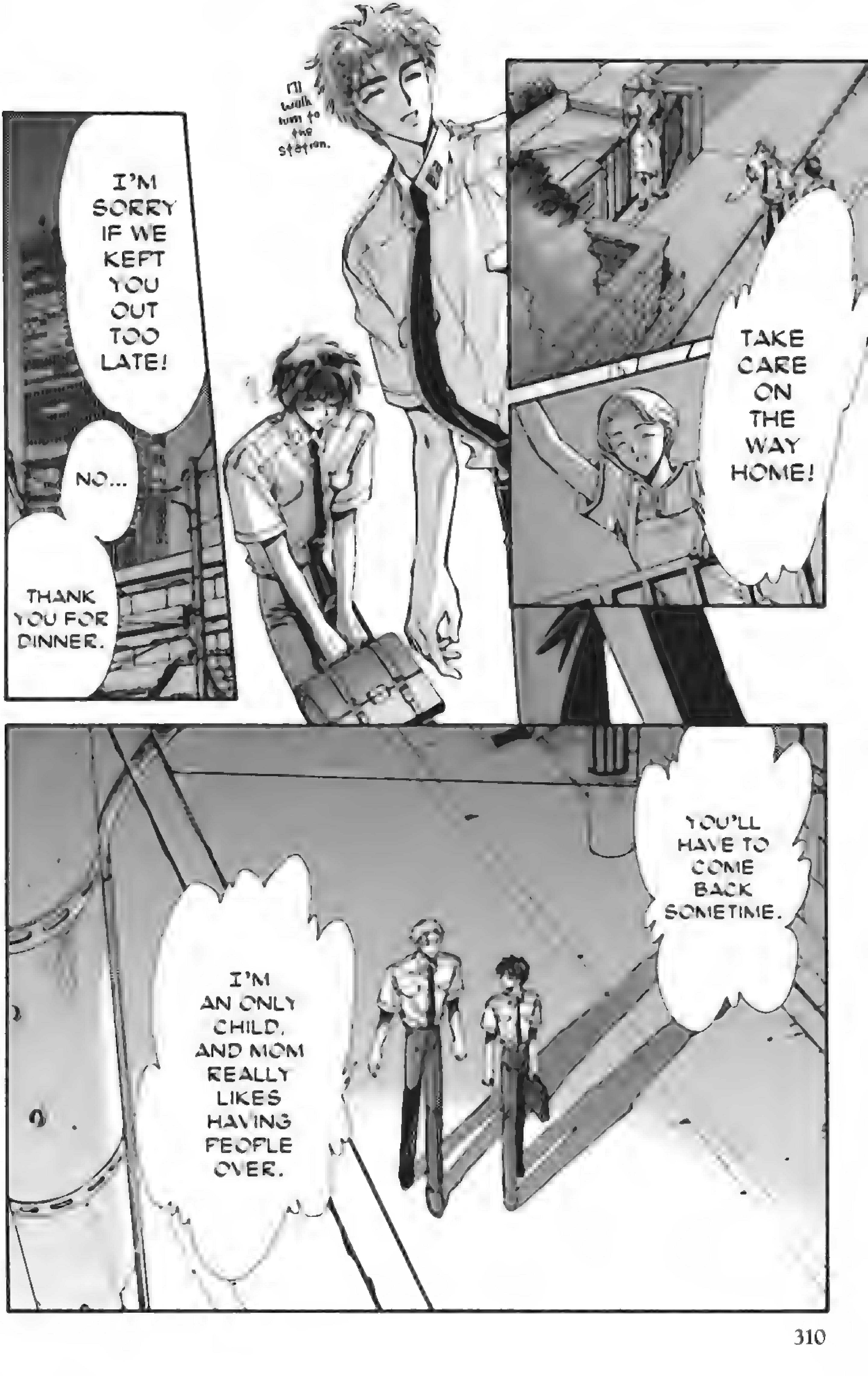

WE'VE DECIDED TO KEEP OUR CHINS UP AND KEEP LIVING OUR LIVES.
I'M SORRY FOR LEAVING DURING DINNER.
PAD PAD PAD
THERE'S STILL PLENTY OF MEAT LEFT.
PLEASE HAVE SOME MORE, KAMUI!
KEIICHI, COULD YOU GIVE ME A HAND?
TMP
SURE THING!

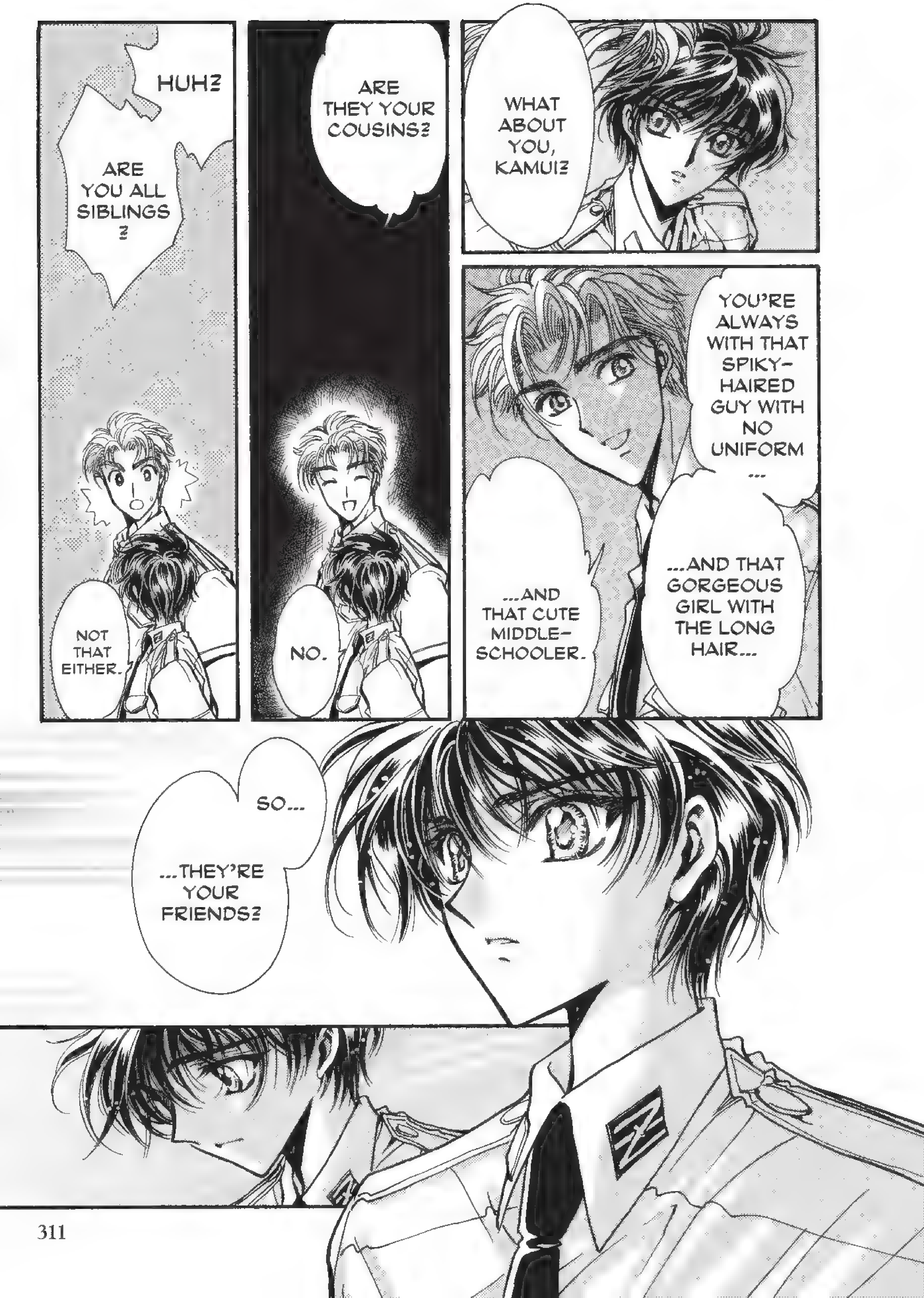

THE EARTHQUAKE IN NAKANO...
...HAPPENED BECAUSE A DRAGON OF EARTH DESTROYED THE KEKKAI THERE.

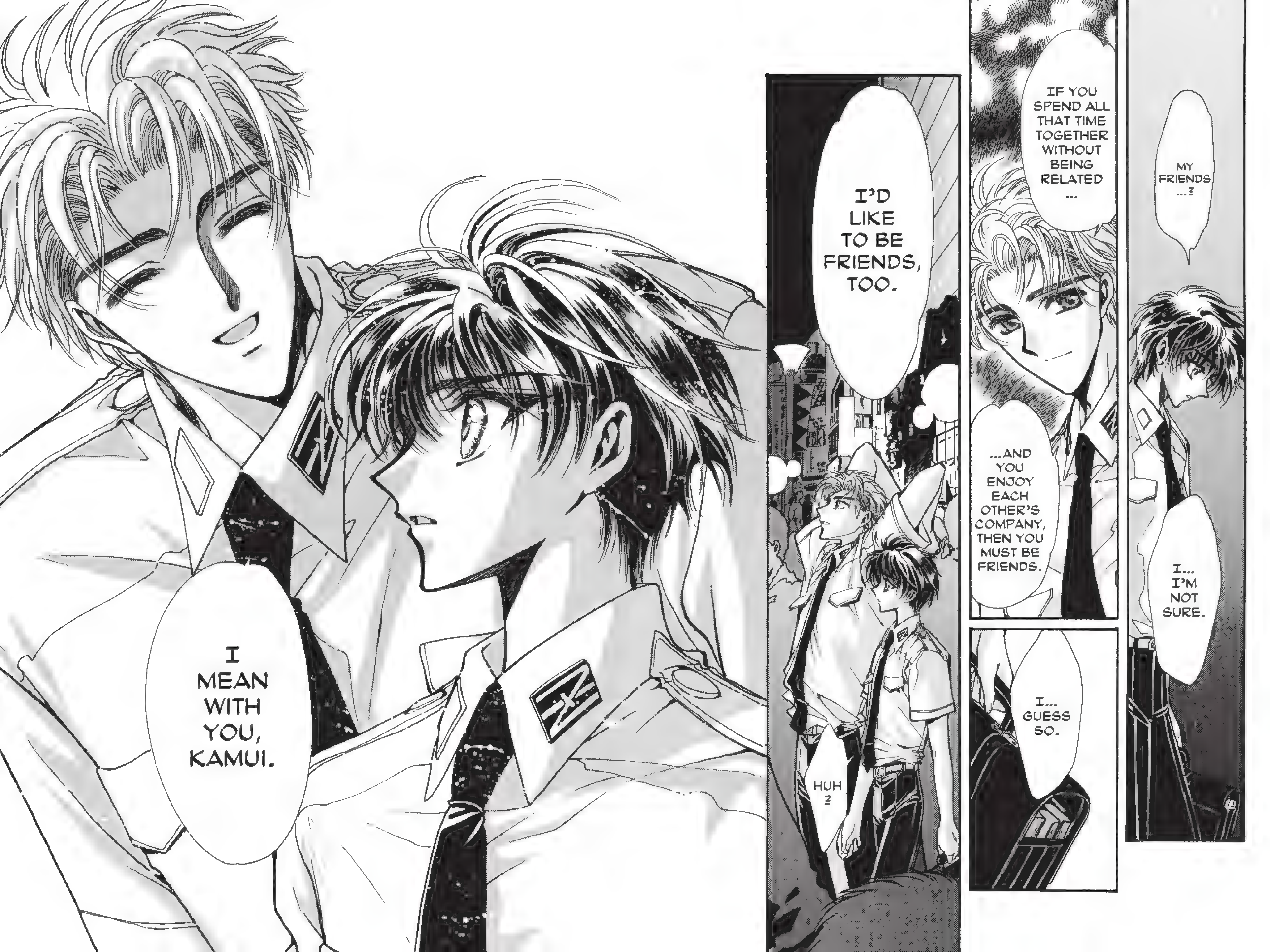

The Seven Dragons will awaken.
They will destroy Tokyo...
...and the world itself.
The Dragons of Earth? You mean earthquakes?!
Tokyo is going to be destroyed by an earthquake?!
Yes.
But the cause of the earthquake will be the Seven Dragons.
They are the Seven Angels.

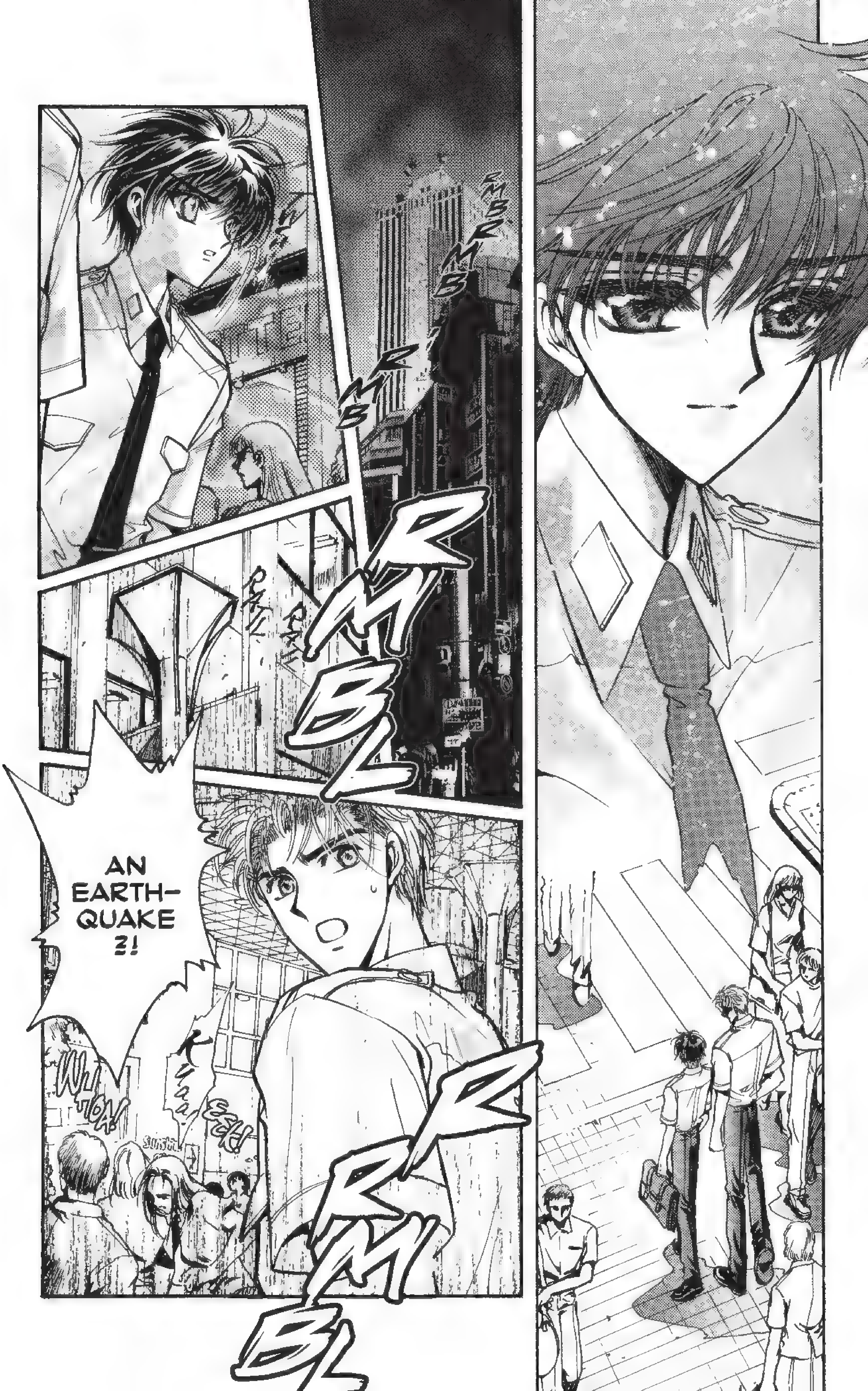

The only ones who can fight the Seven Angels...
The seven people in this world...
...who can create the kekkai that can save the earth.
The Seven Seals.

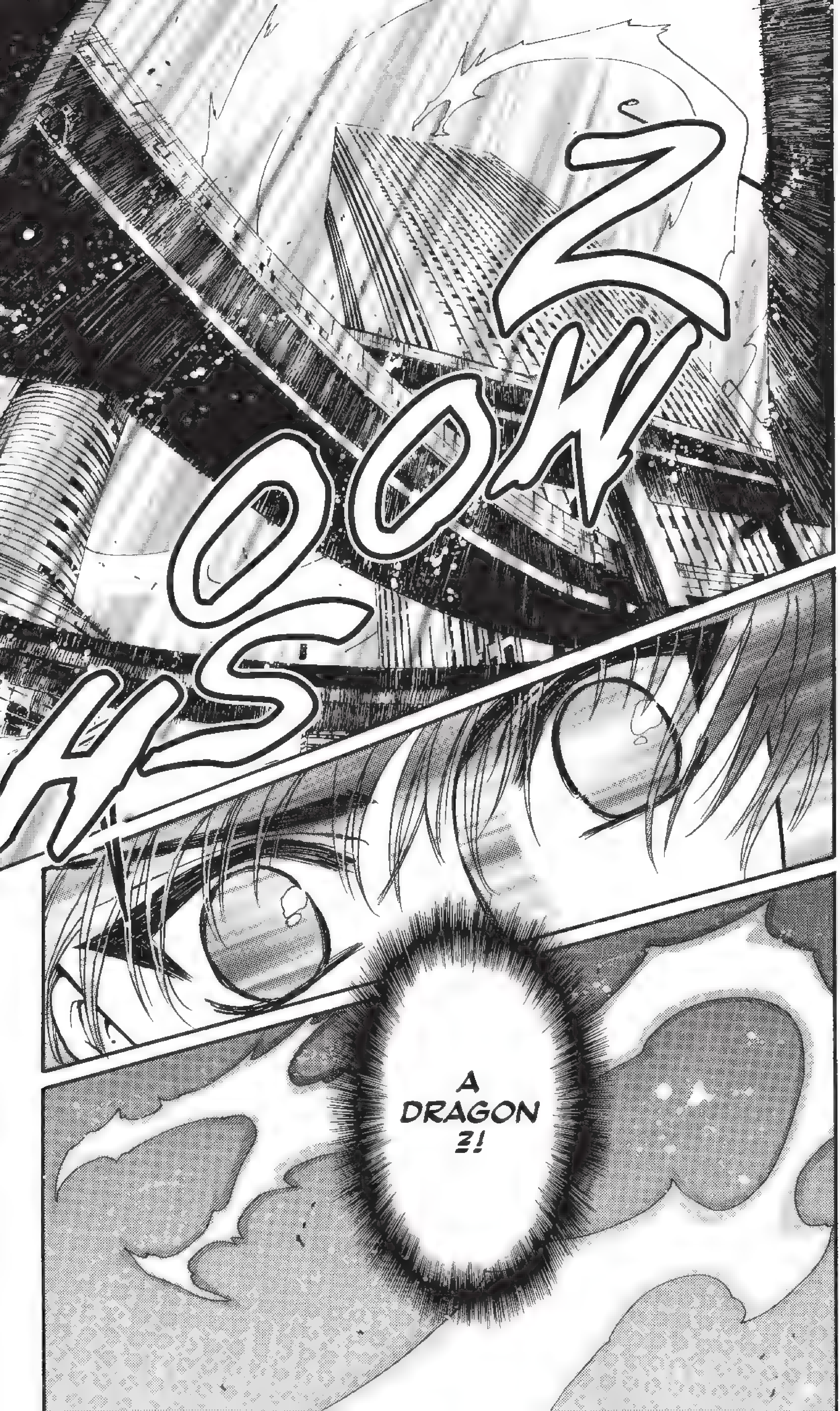

A KEKKAI...
THAT'S THE ONLY WAY TO PROTECT PEOPLE.

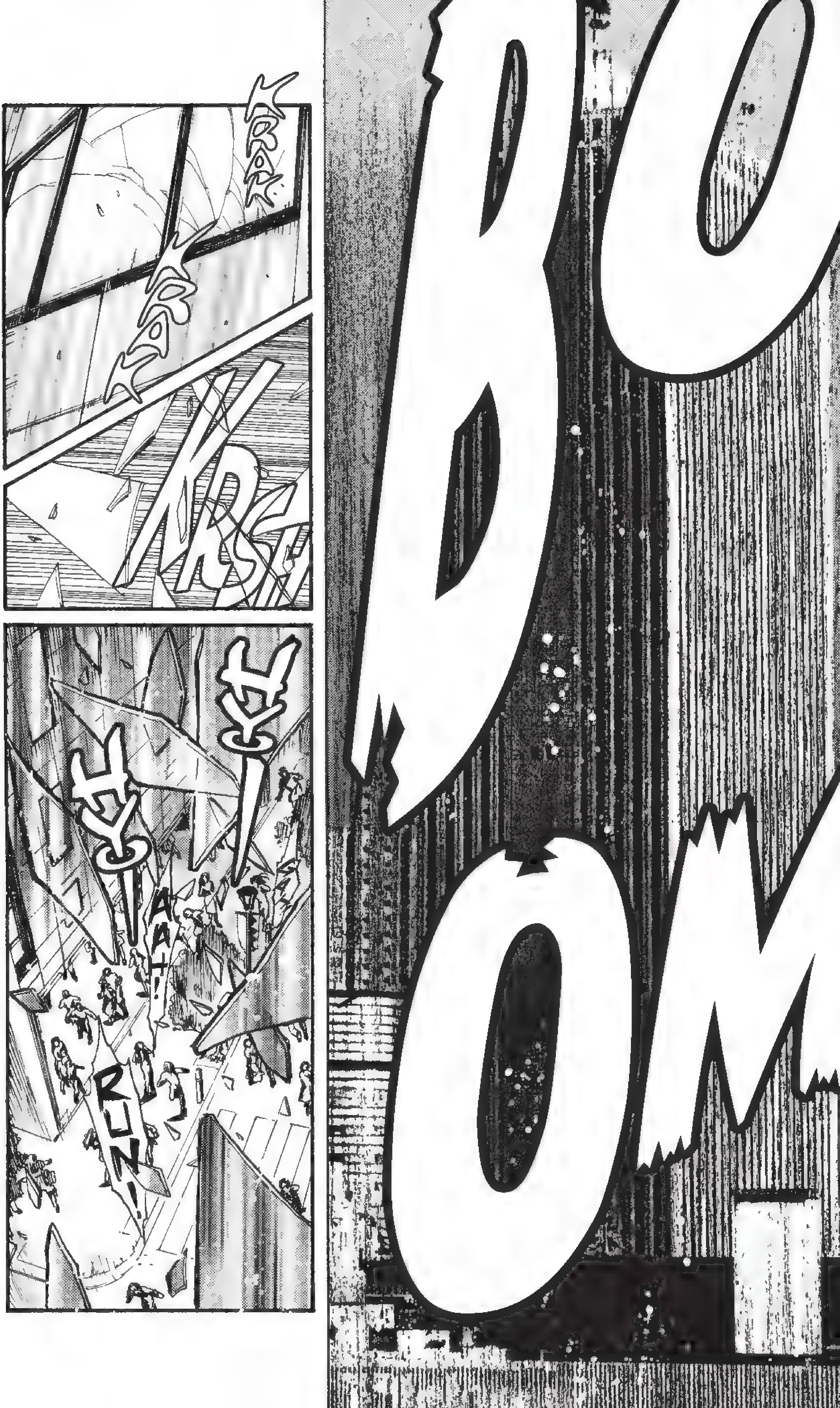

TAKE CARE ON THE WAY HOME!
I'll walk him to the station.
I'M SORRY IF WE KEPT YOU OUT TOO LATE!
NO...
THANK YOU FOR DINNER.
YOU'LL HAVE TO COME BACK SOMETIME.
I'M AN ONLY CHILD, AND MOM REALLY LIKES HAVING PEOPLE OVER.

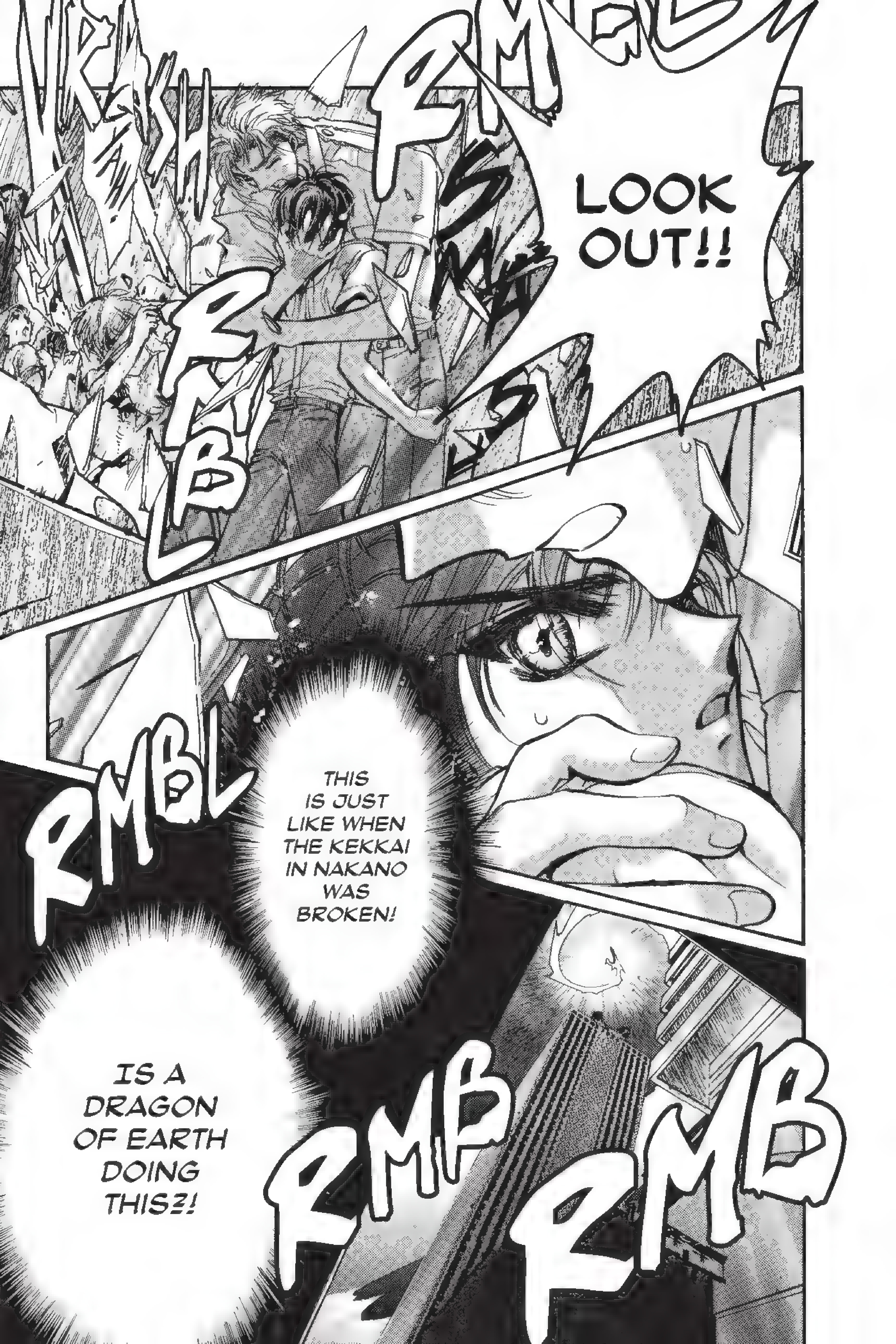

WHAT ABOUT YOU, KAMUI?
YOU'RE ALWAYS WITH THAT SPIKY-HAIRED GUY WITH NO UNIFORM...
...AND THAT GORGEOUS GIRL WITH THE LONG HAIR...
...AND THAT CUTE MIDDLE-SCHOOLER.
ARE THEY YOUR COUSINS?
NO.
HUH?
ARE YOU ALL SIBLINGS?
NOT THAT EITHER.
SO...
...THEY'RE YOUR FRIENDS?

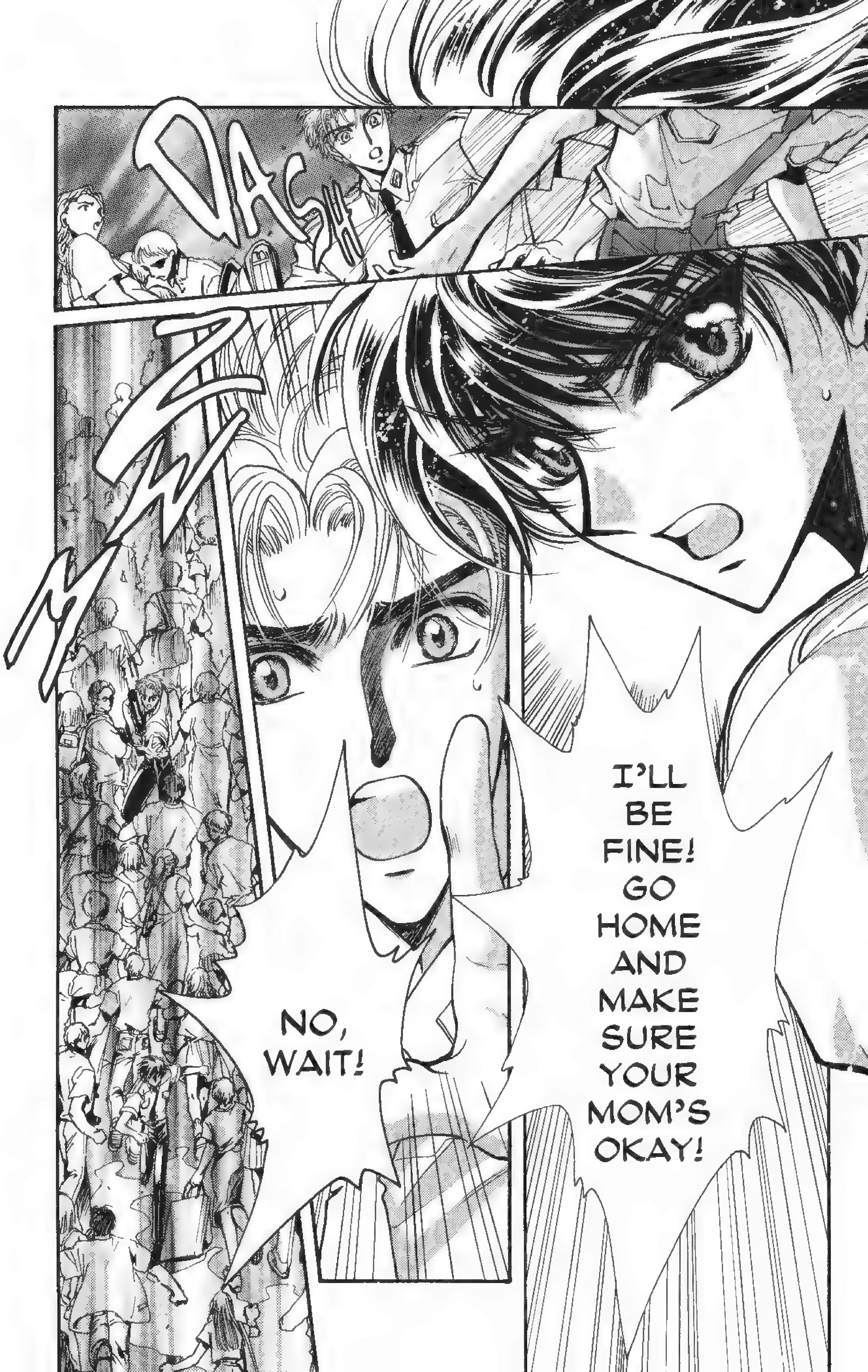

MY FRIENDS...?
I... I'M NOT SURE.
IF YOU SPEND ALL THAT TIME TOGETHER WITHOUT BEING RELATED...
...AND YOU ENJOY EACH OTHER'S COMPANY, THEN YOU MUST BE FRIENDS.
I... GUESS SO.
I'D LIKE TO BE FRIENDS, TOO.
HUH?
I MEAN WITH YOU, KAMUI.

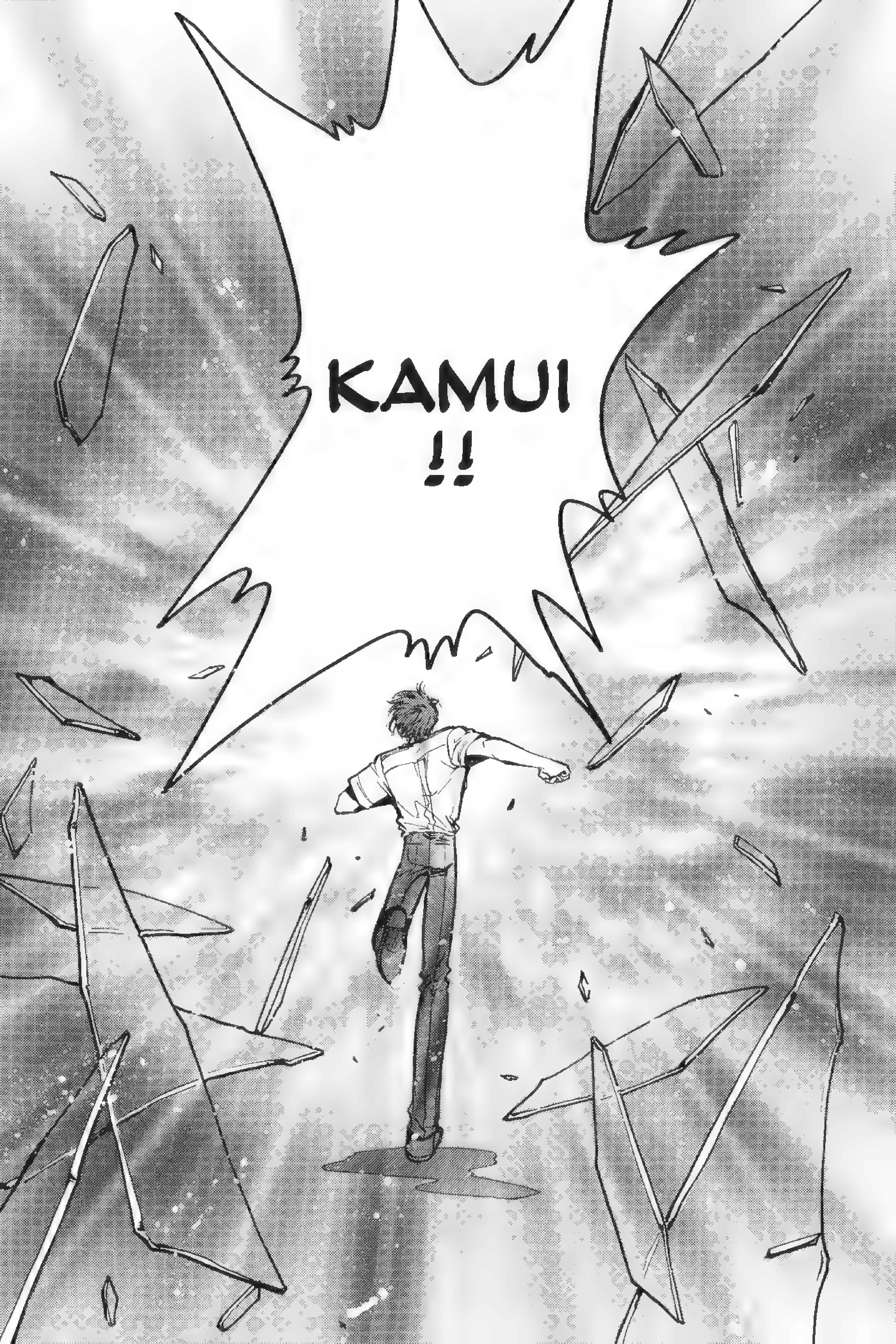

RMMB RMMB
RMBL
RMBL RMBL
AN EARTHQUAKE?!
WHOA!
KYAAA
EEK!
RRMBL

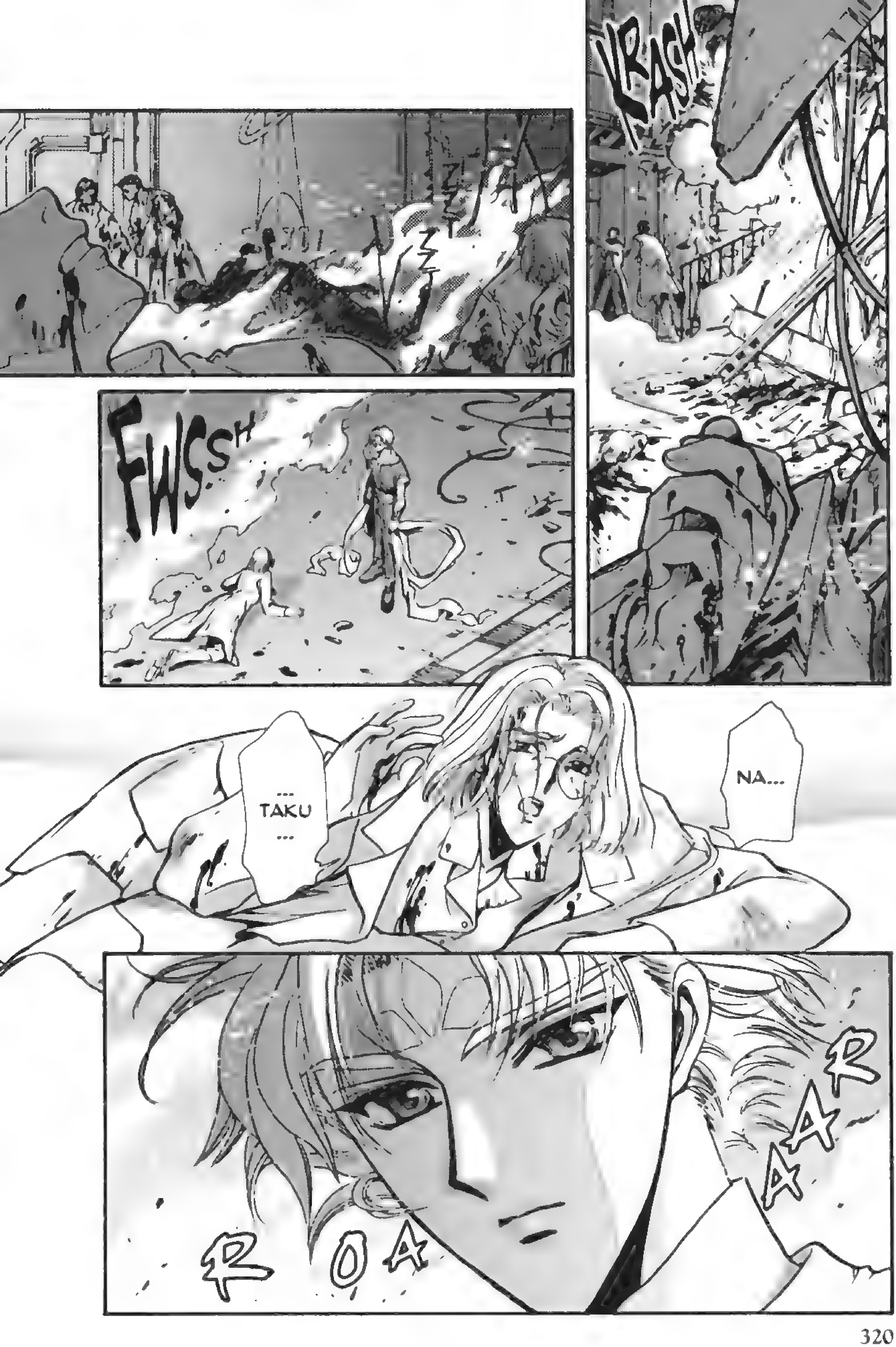

ZWOOSH
A DRAGON ?!

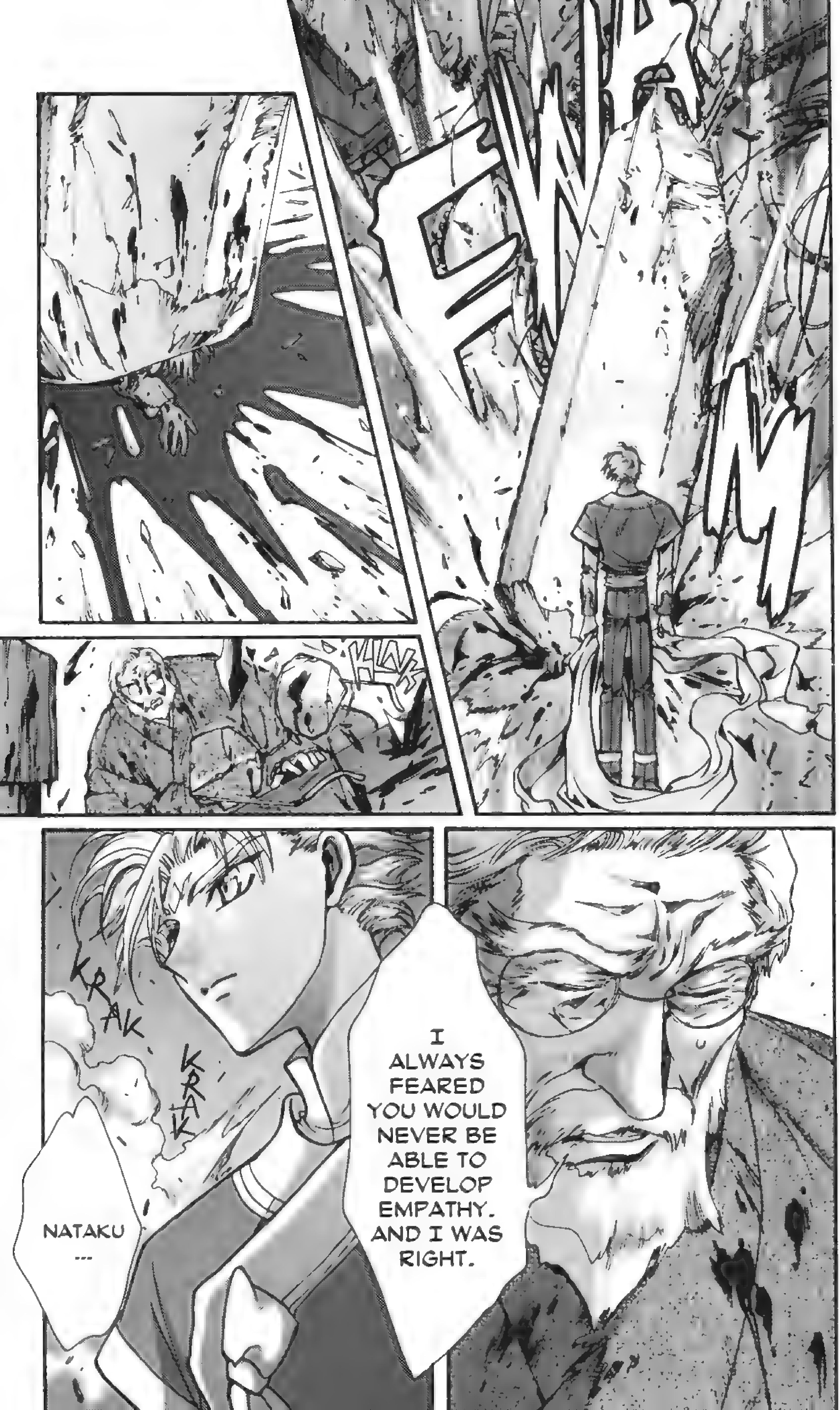

BOOM
KRAK
KRAK
KRSH
HY
HY
AAH!
RUN!

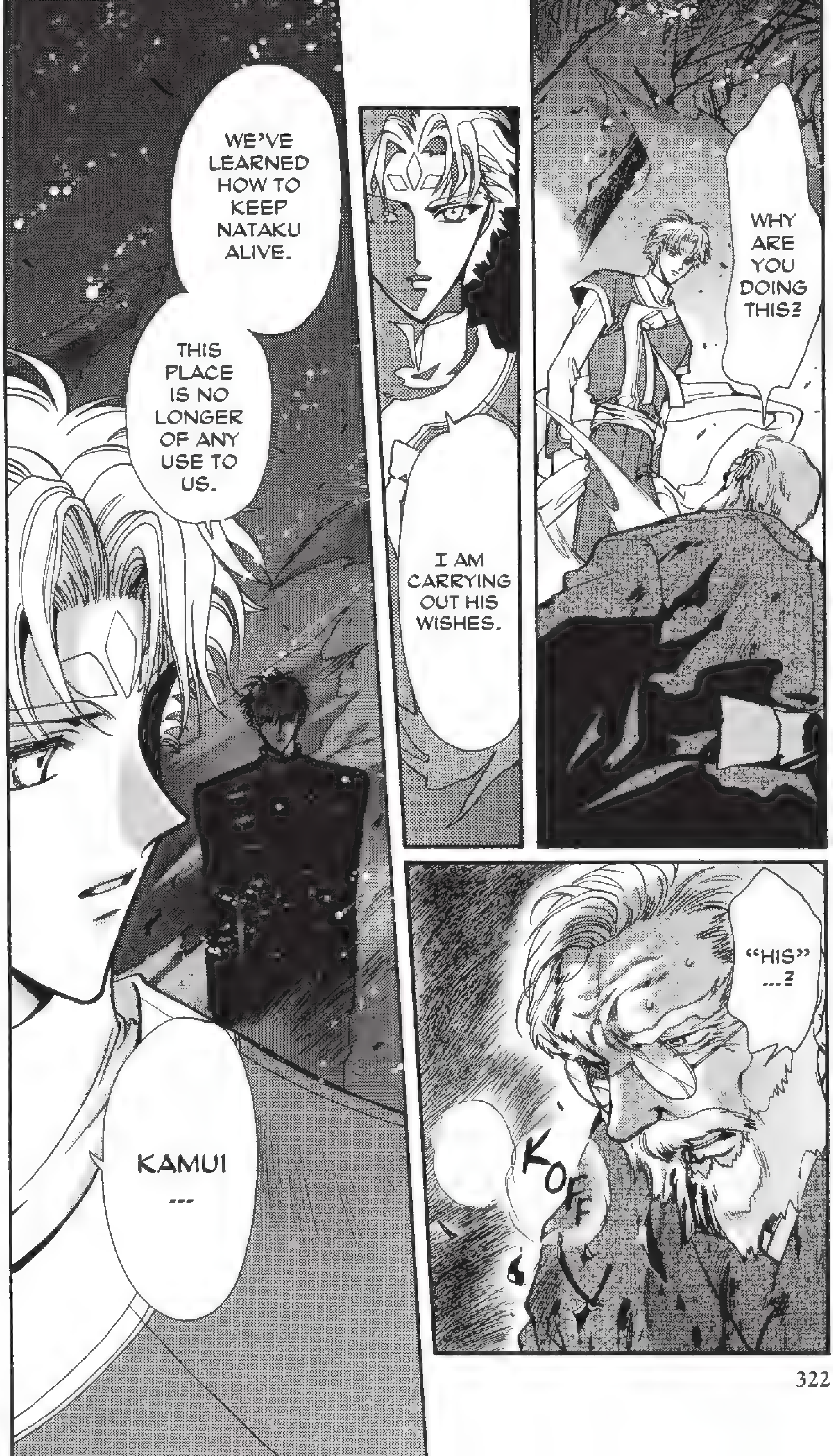

KRASH
RMBL
RMBL
LOOK OUT!!
RMBL
THIS IS JUST LIKE WHEN THE KEKKAI IN NAKANO WAS BROKEN!
IS A DRAGON OF EARTH DOING THIS?!
RMB RMB

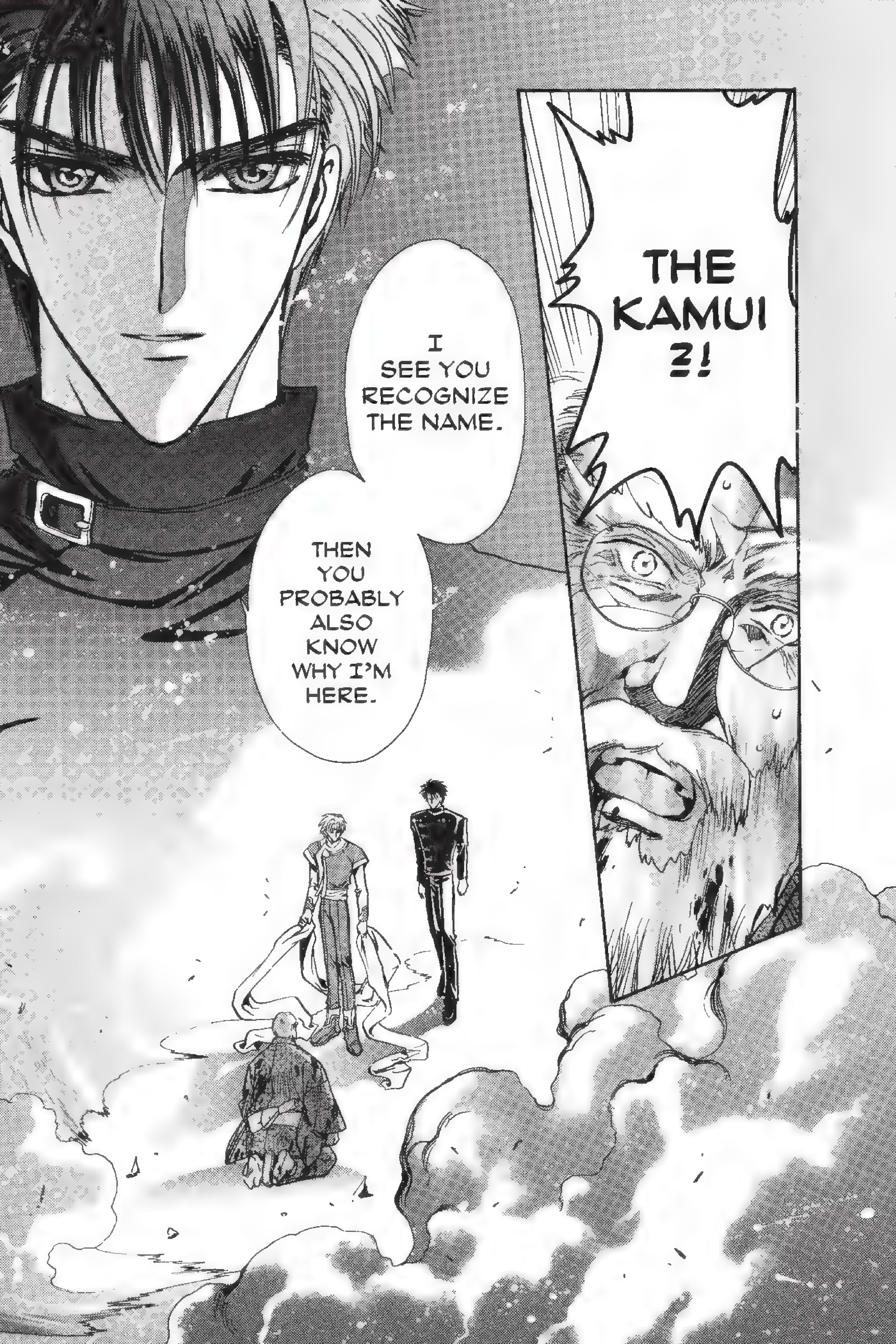

DASH
I'LL BE FINE! GO HOME AND MAKE SURE YOUR MOM'S OKAY!
NO, WAIT!

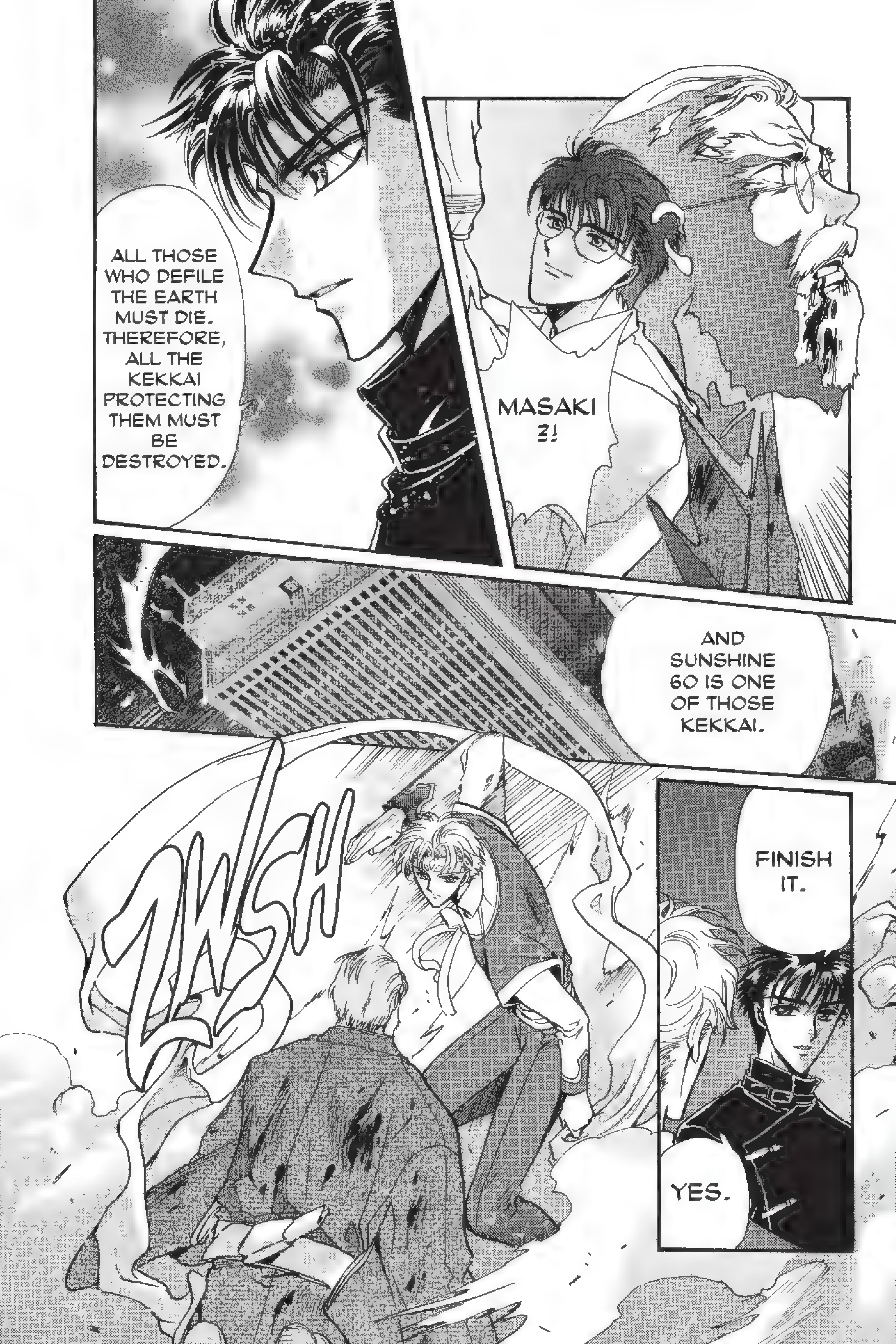

KAMUI !!

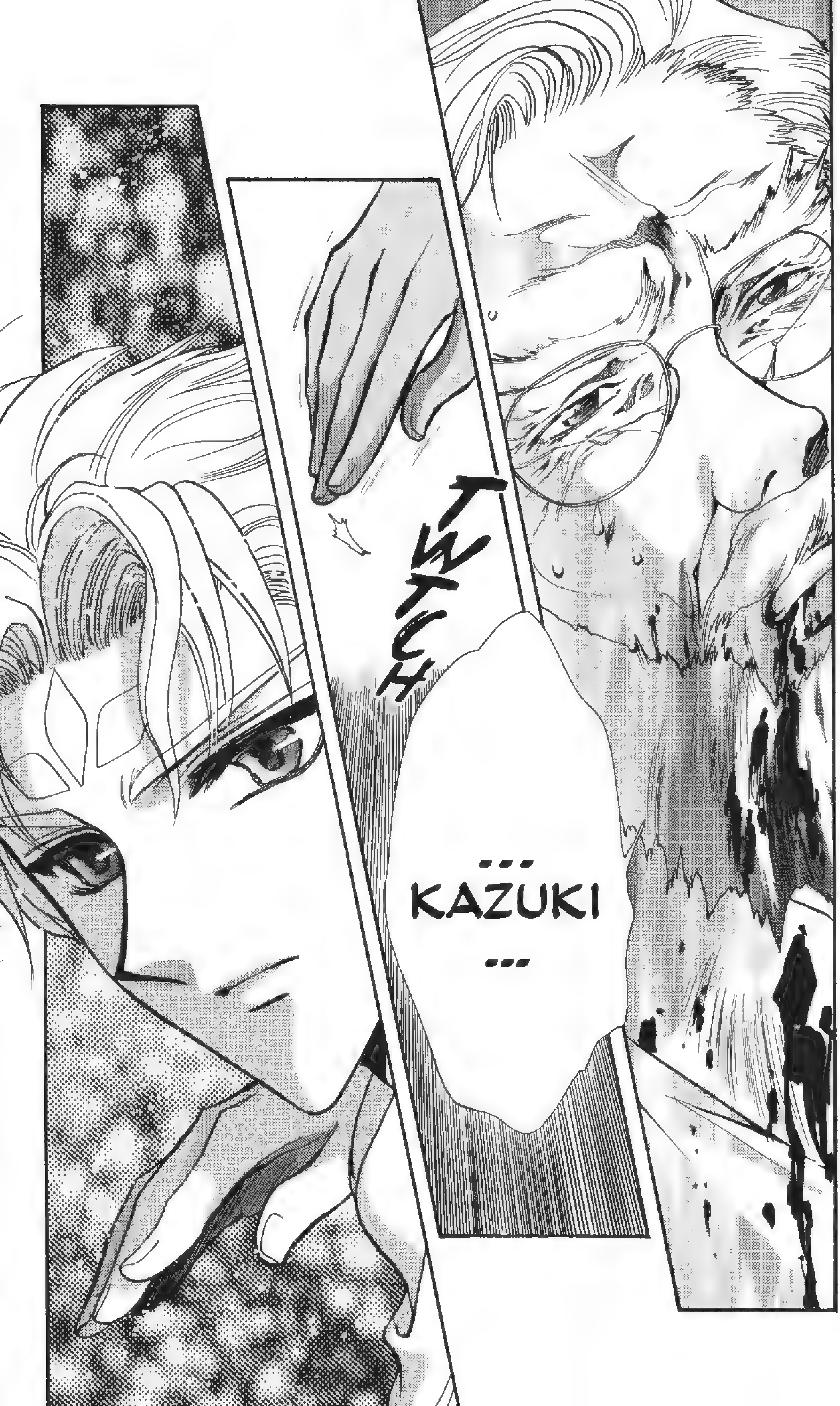

KRASH
FWSSH
NA...
...TAKU...
ROAAAR

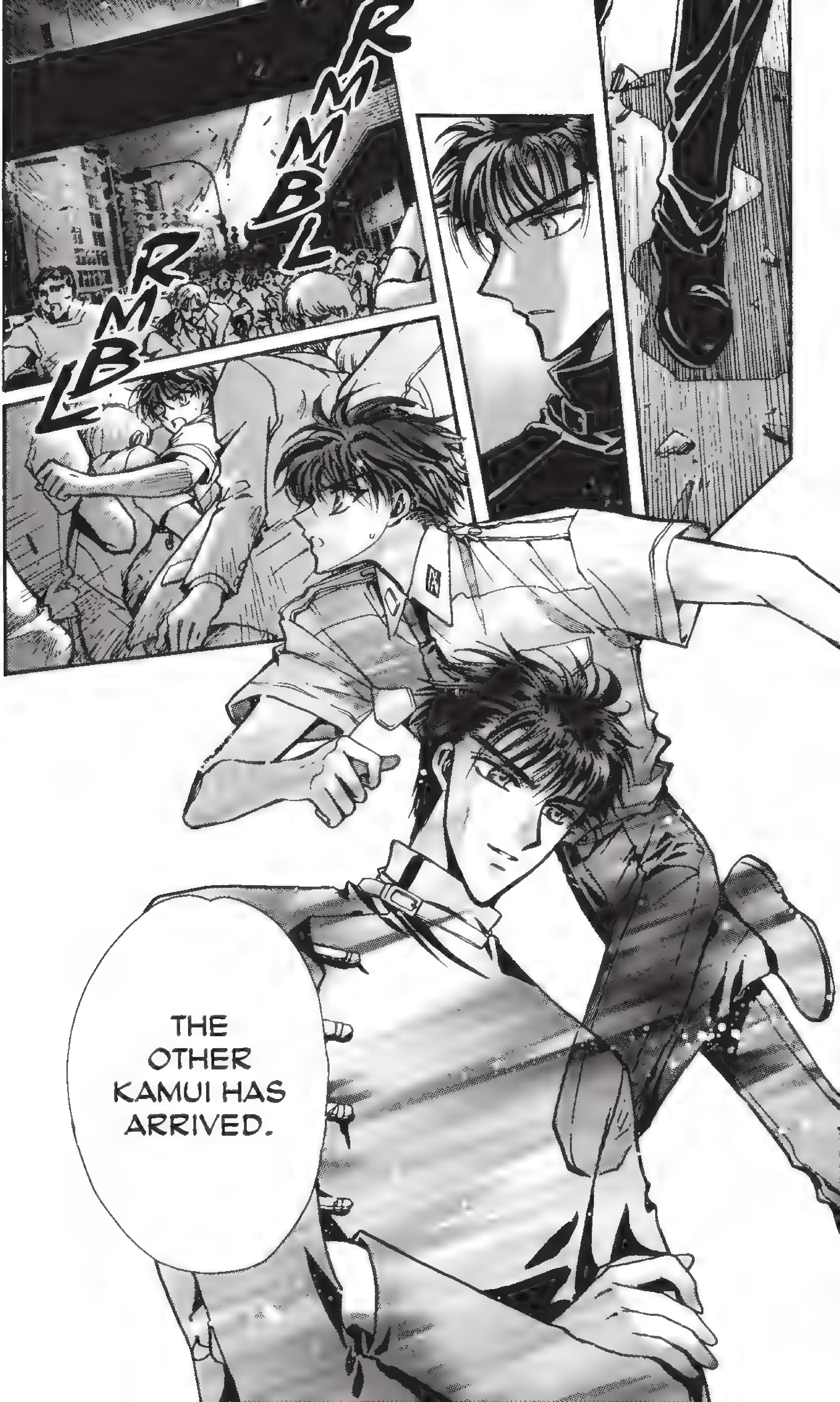

FWAM
KLANK
I ALWAYS FEARED YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO DEVELOP EMPATHY. AND I WAS RIGHT.
KRAK
KRAK
NATAKU ---

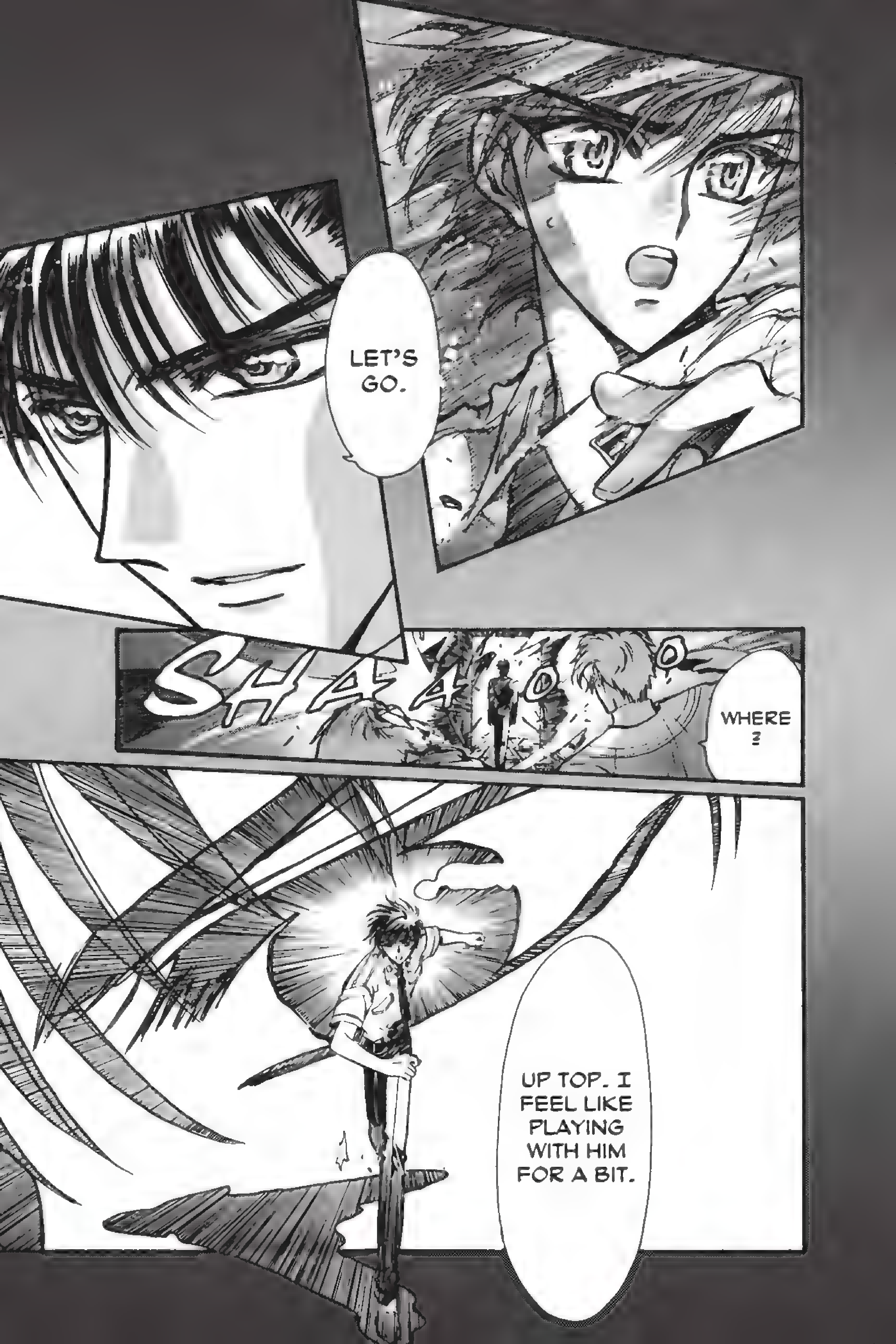

WHY ARE YOU DOING THIS?
I AM CARRYING OUT HIS WISHES.
"HIS" ...?
KOFF
WE'VE LEARNED HOW TO KEEP NATAKU ALIVE.
THIS PLACE IS NO LONGER OF ANY USE TO US.
KAMUI ...

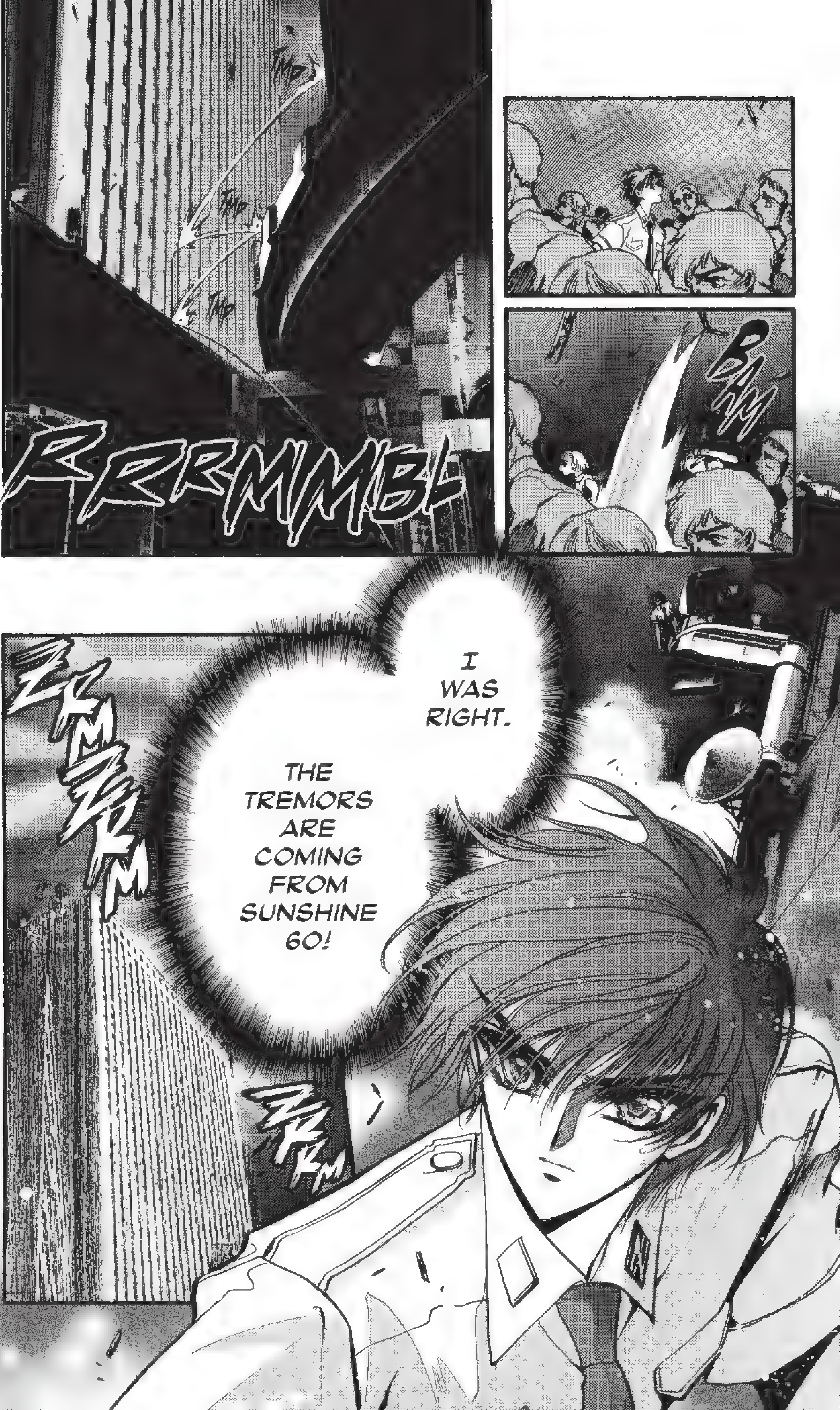

THE KAMUI?!
I SEE YOU RECOGNIZE THE NAME.
THEN YOU PROBABLY ALSO KNOW WHY I'M HERE.

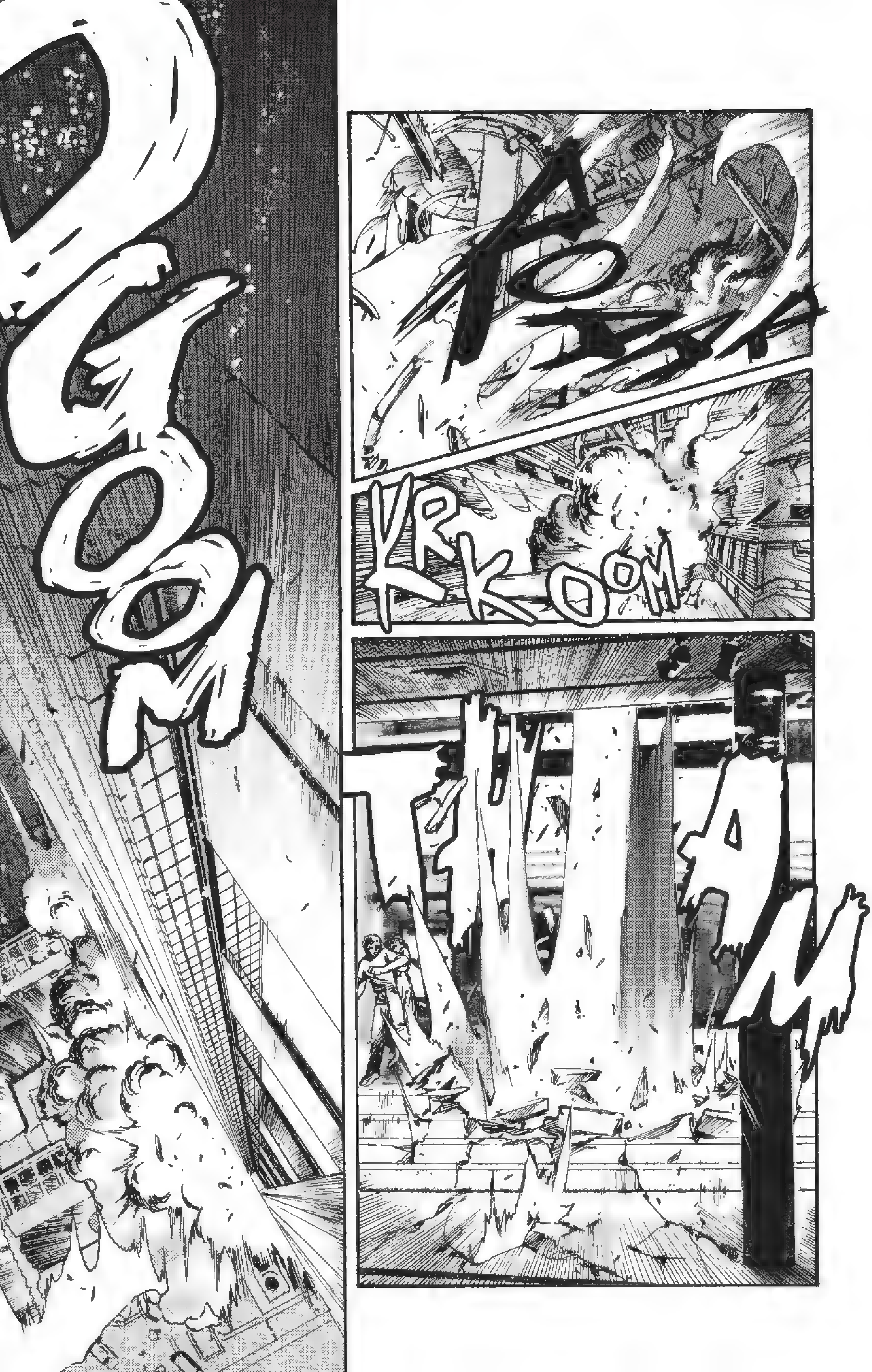

MASAKI ?!
ALL THOSE WHO DEFILE THE EARTH MUST DIE. THEREFORE, ALL THE KEKKAI PROTECTING THEM MUST BE DESTROYED.
AND SUNSHINE 60 IS ONE OF THOSE KEKKAI.
FINISH IT.
YES.
ZWSH


TWITCH
...KAZUKI...

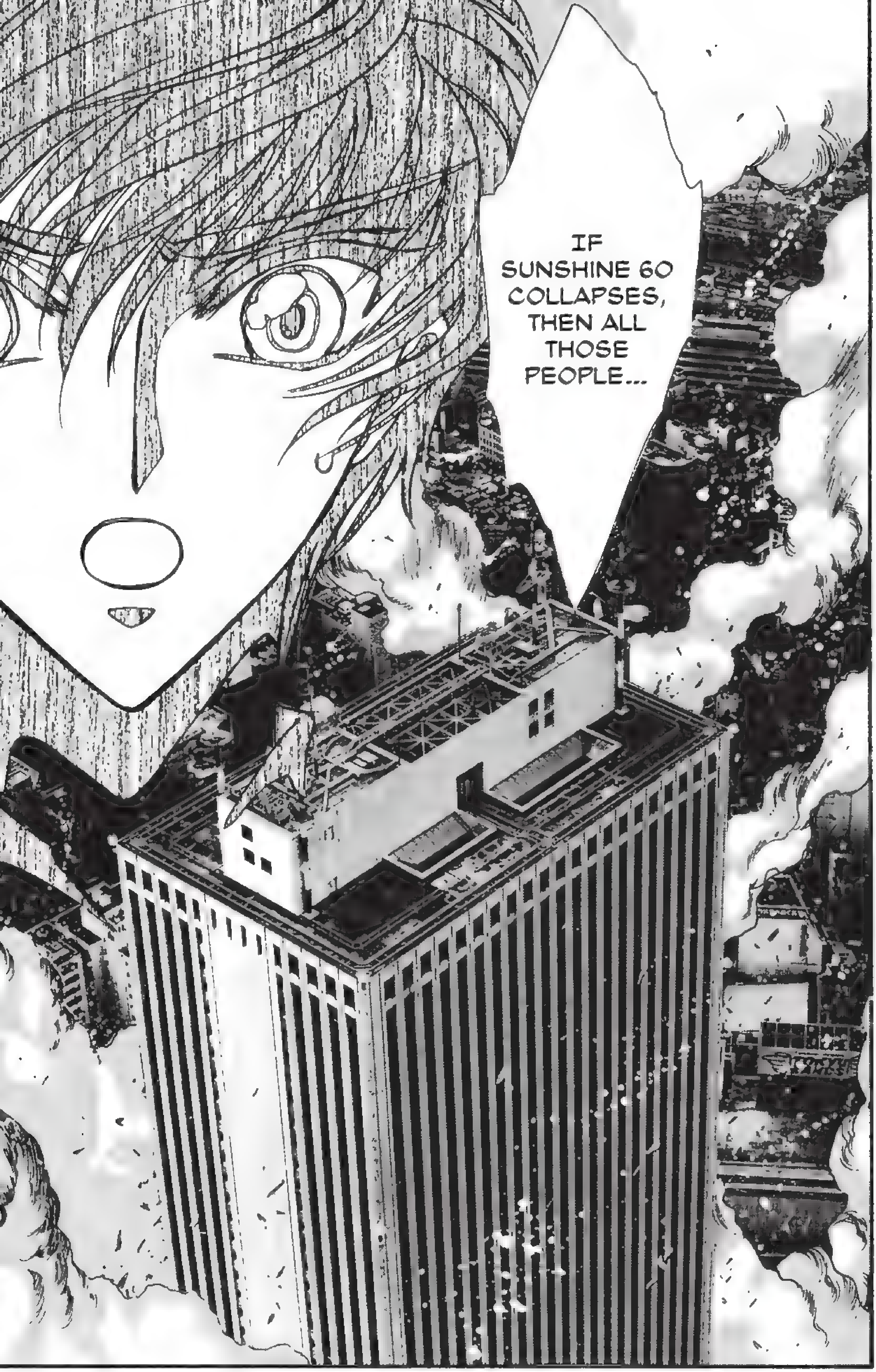

RMMBL
RMBL
THE OTHER KAMUI HAS ARRIVED.

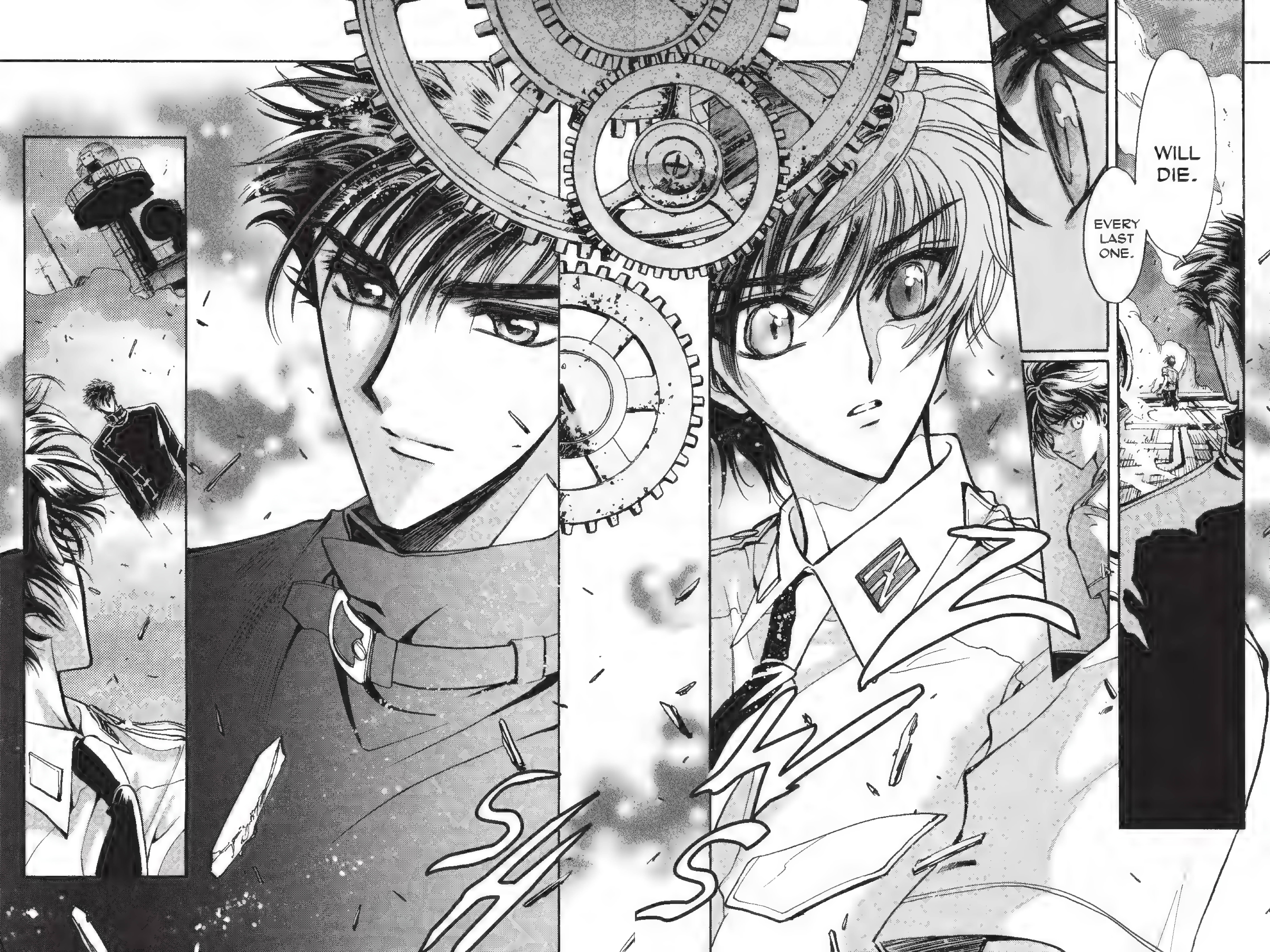

LET'S GO.
SHA
WHERE ?
UP TOP. I FEEL LIKE PLAYING WITH HIM FOR A BIT.

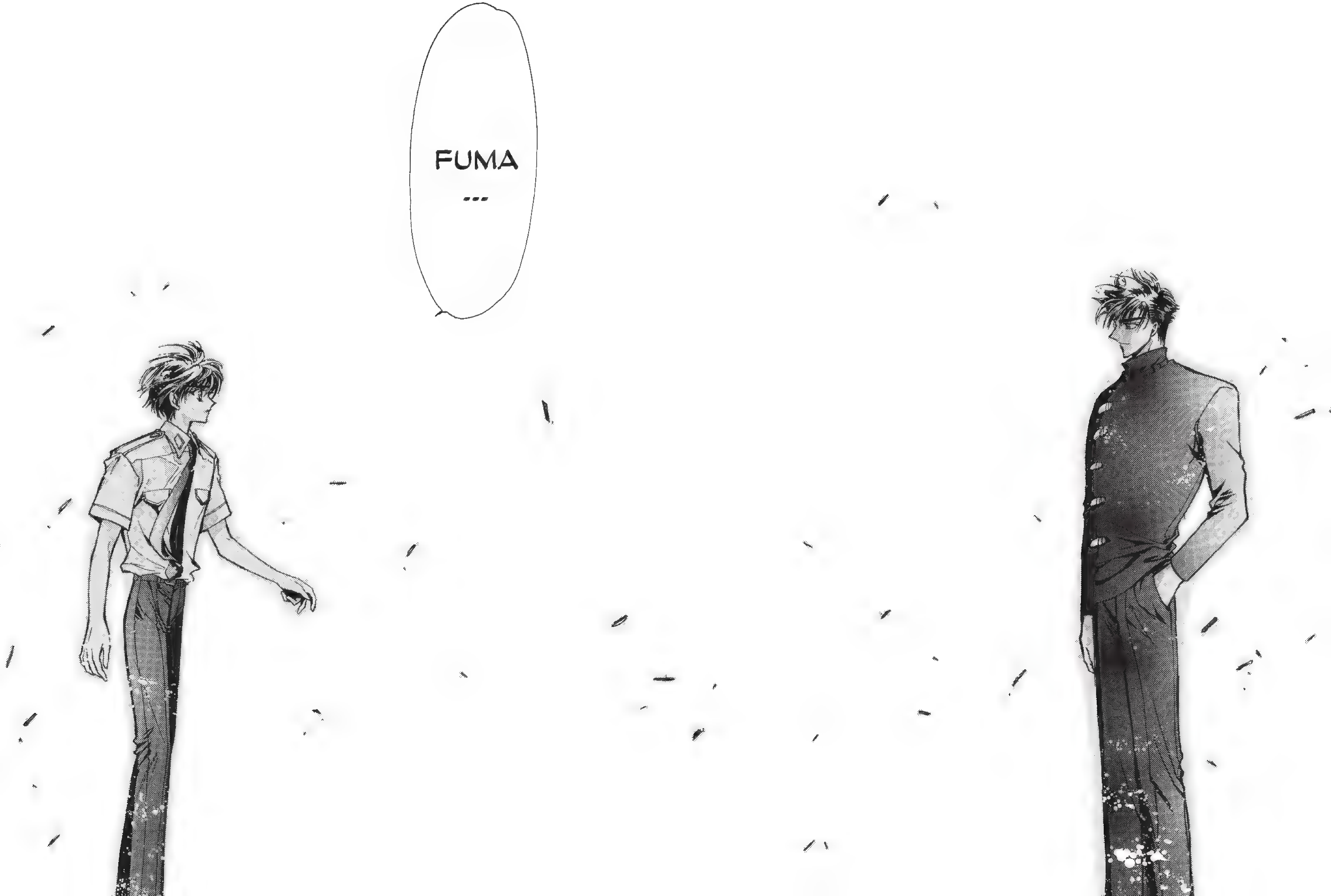

BAM
TMP
TMP
TMP
RRRMMBL
I WAS RIGHT.
THE TREMORS ARE COMING FROM SUNSHINE 60!
ZMMMMMM
ZMMM

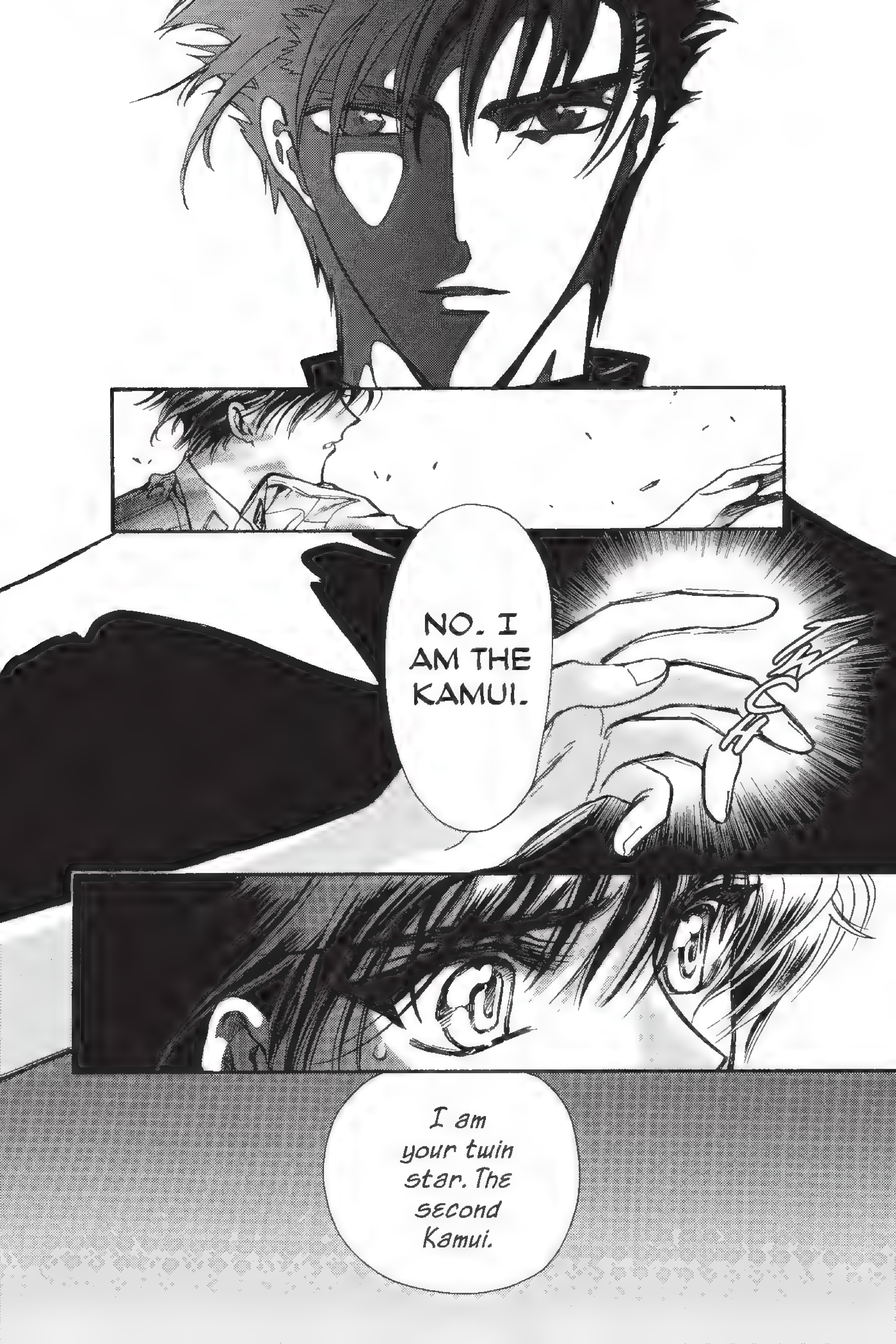

DGOOM
PZAKK
KRKOOM
TWAM

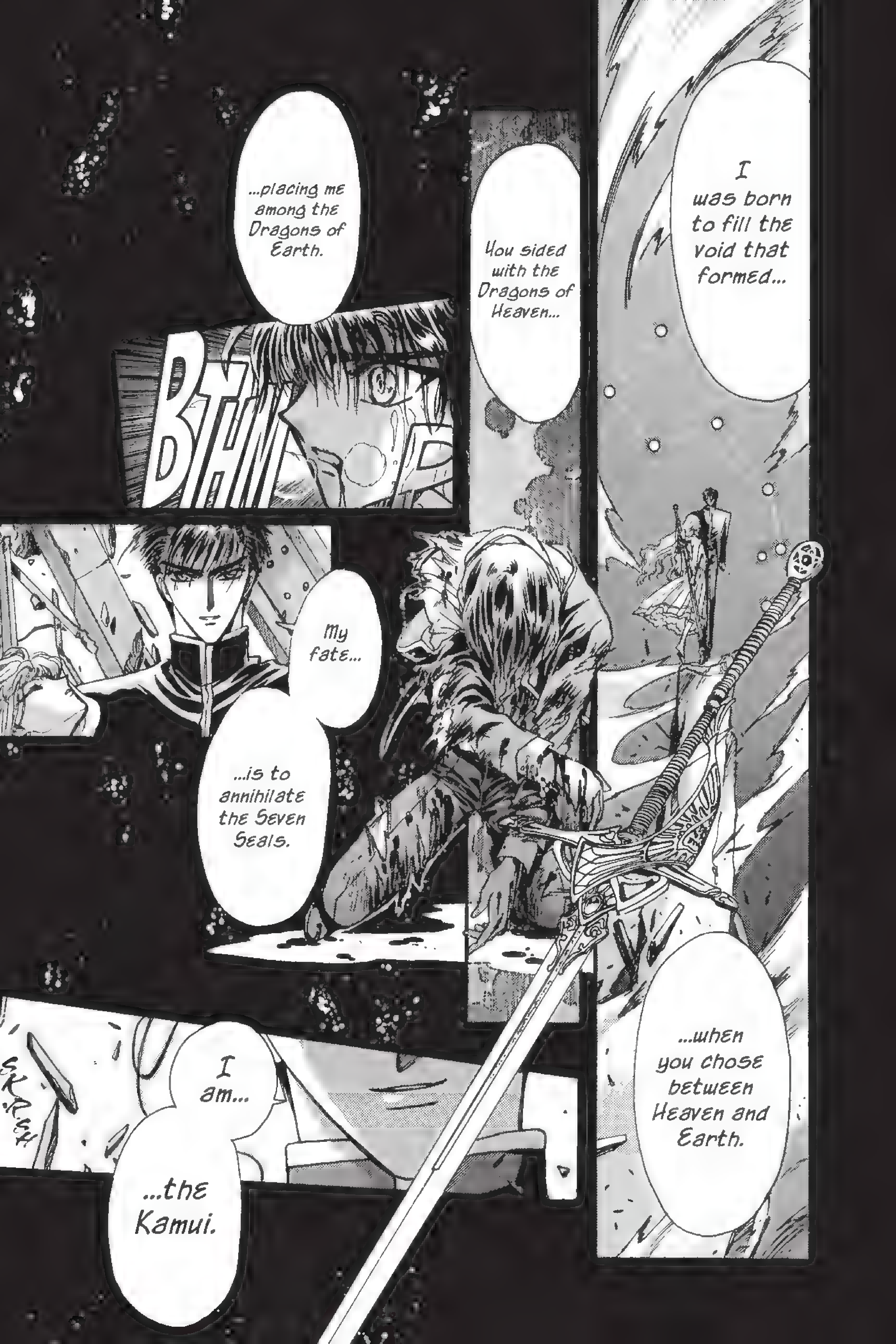
BOO
FWOOMSH
ZWMM

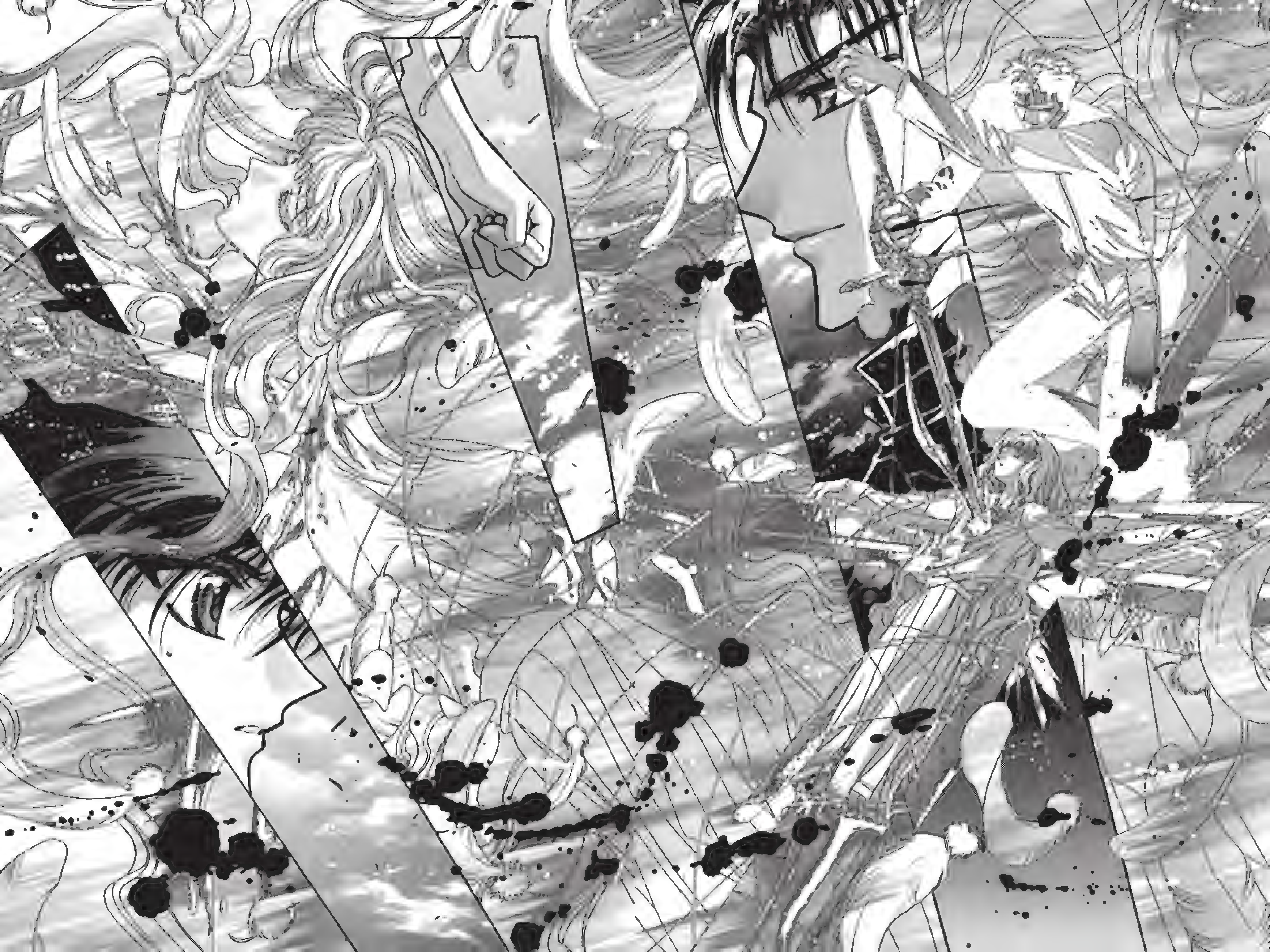

IF SUNSHINE 60 COLLAPSES, THEN ALL THOSE PEOPLE...

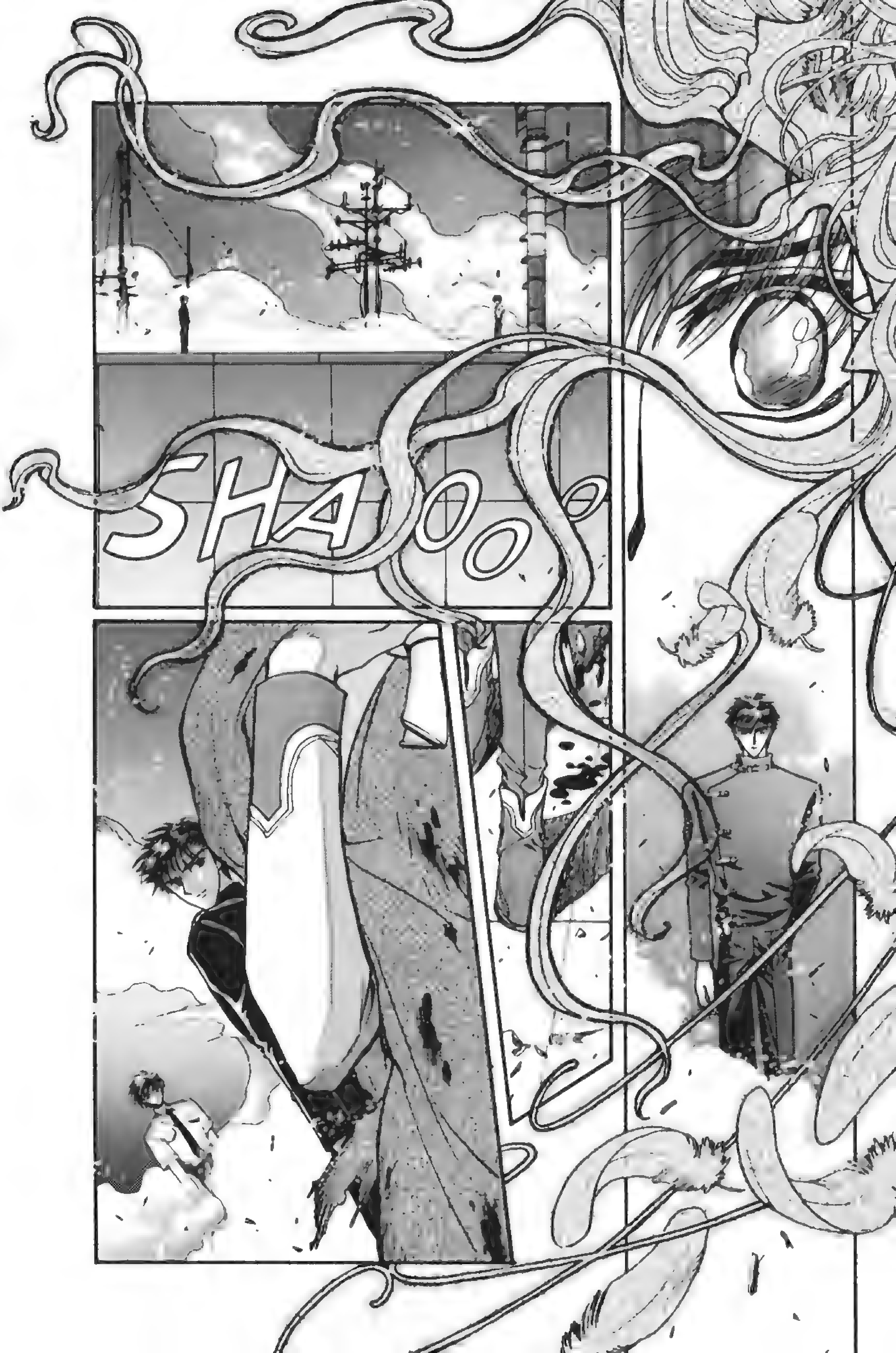

WILL DIE.
EVERY LAST ONE.

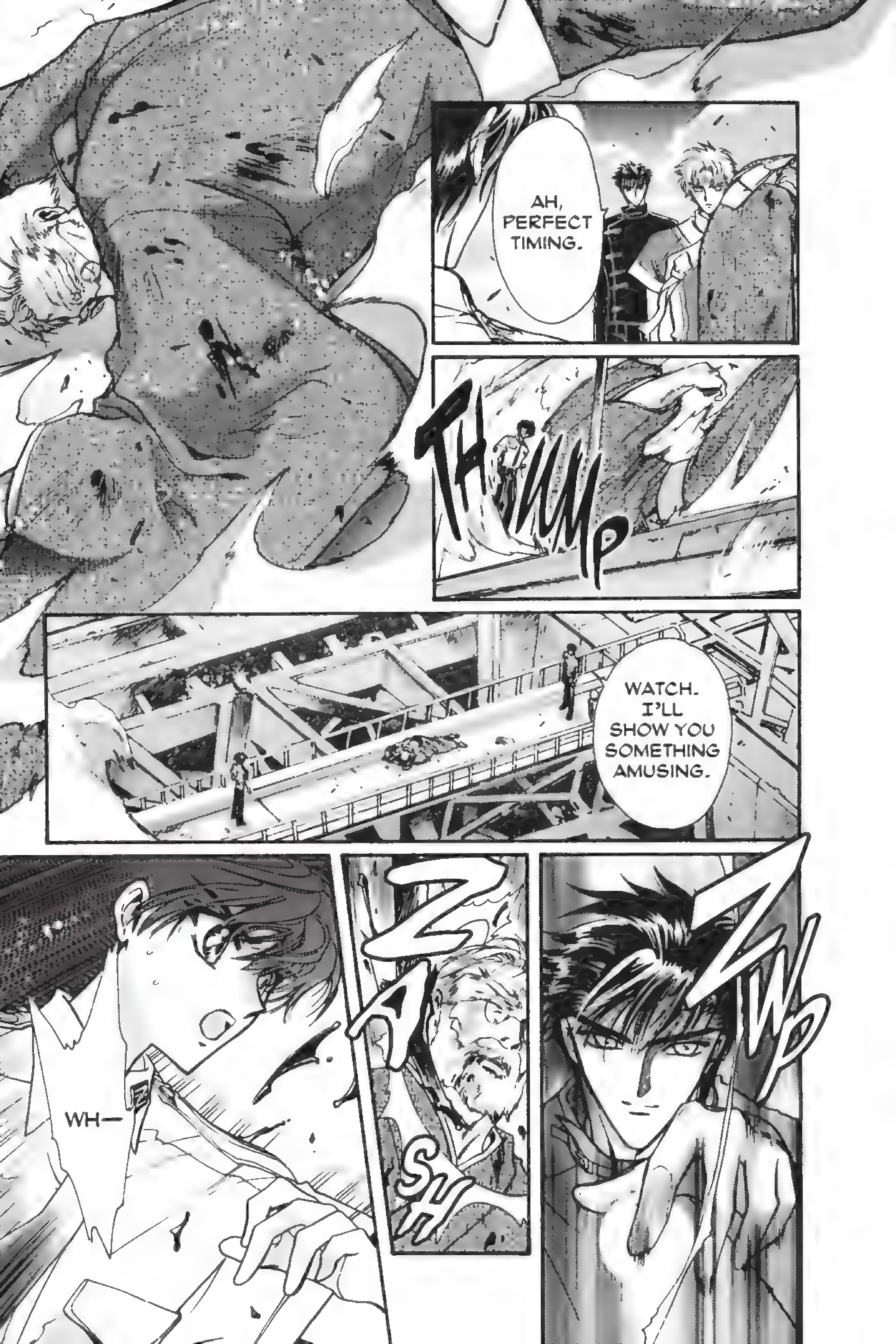

FUMA
...

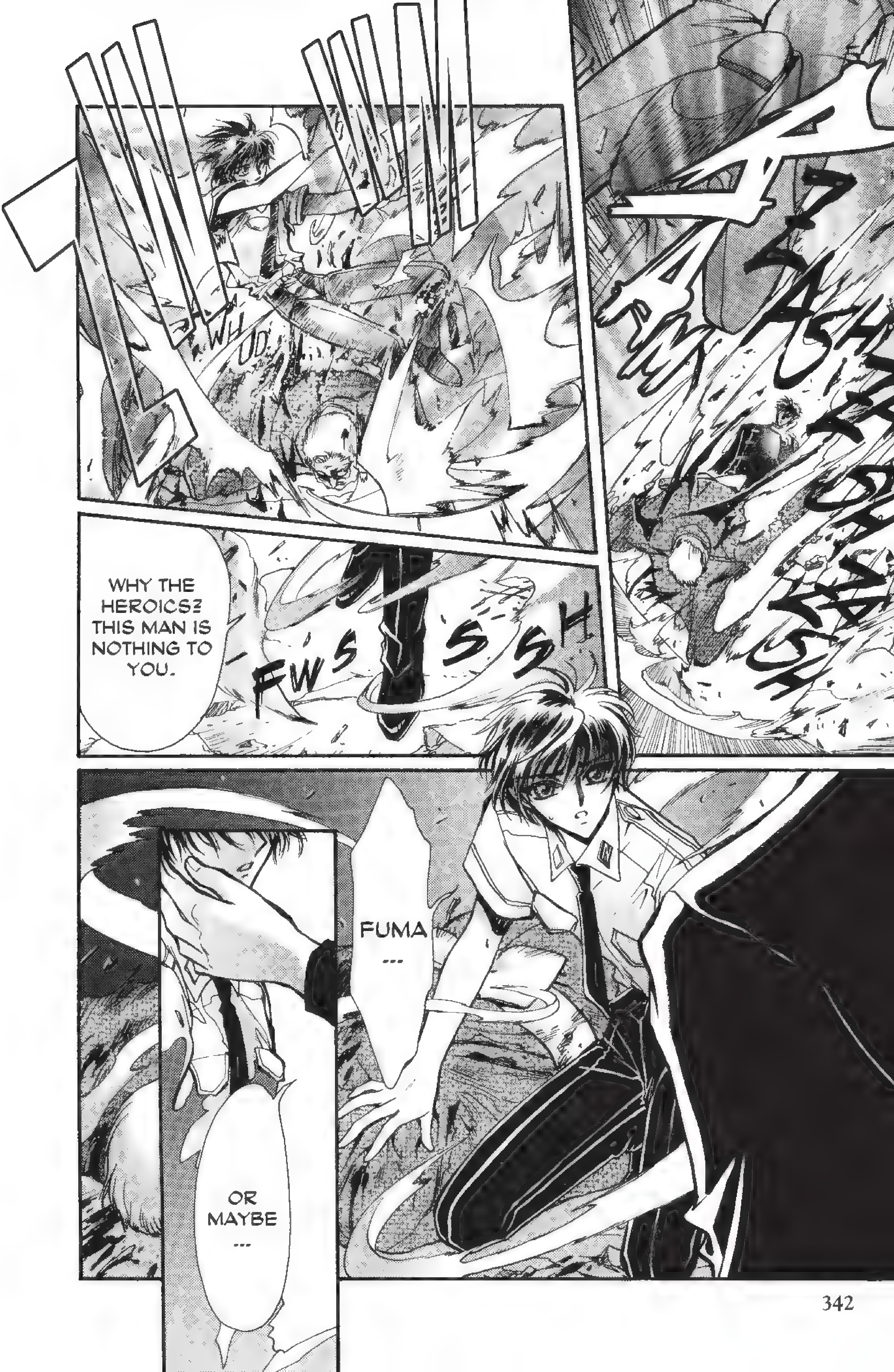

NO. I AM THE KAMUI.
I am your twin star. The second Kamui.

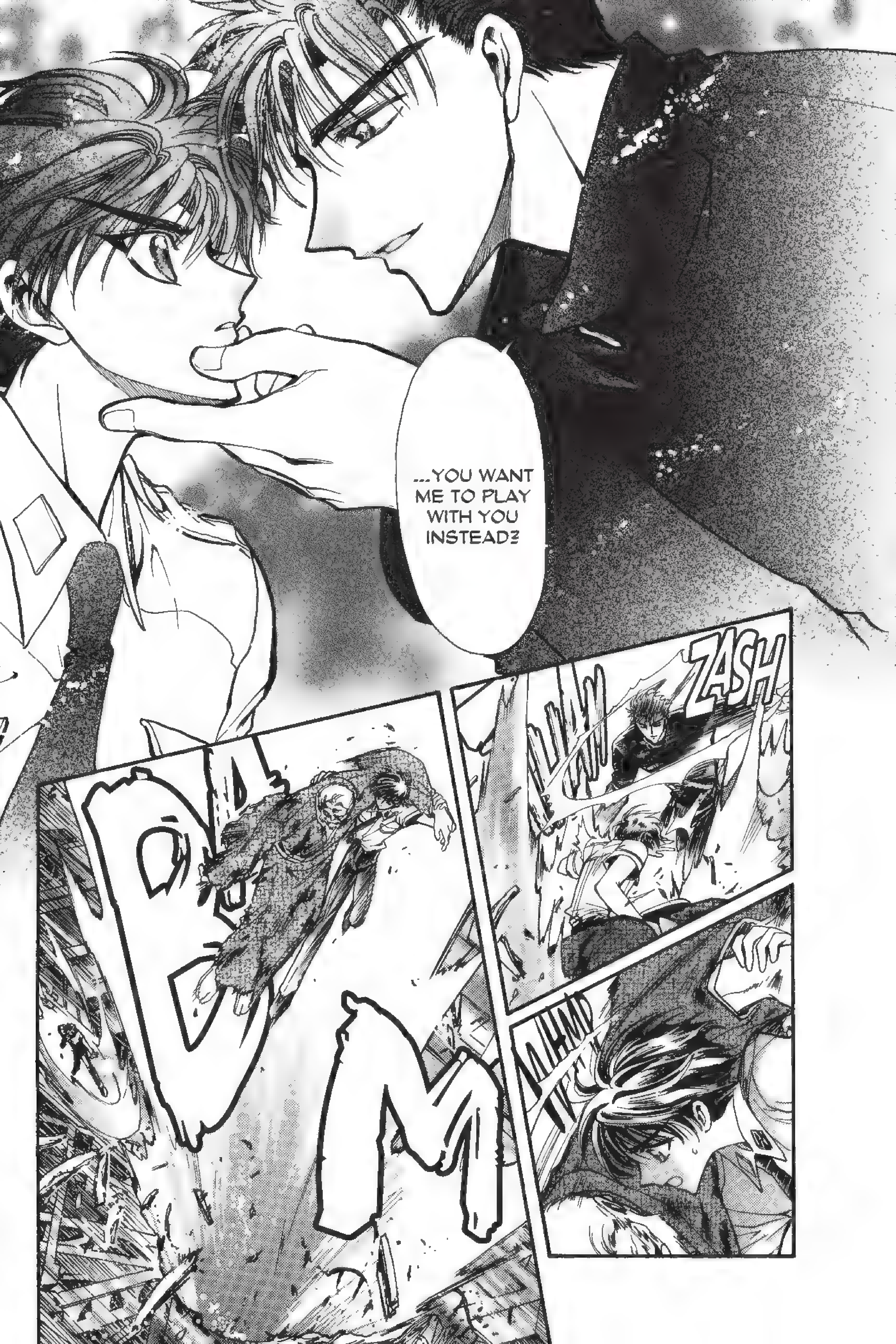

I was born to fill the void that formed...
...when you chose between Heaven and Earth.
You sided with the Dragons of Heaven...
...placing me among the Dragons of Earth.
BTHP
My fate...
...is to annihilate the Seven Seals.
SKRCH
I am...
...the Kamui.

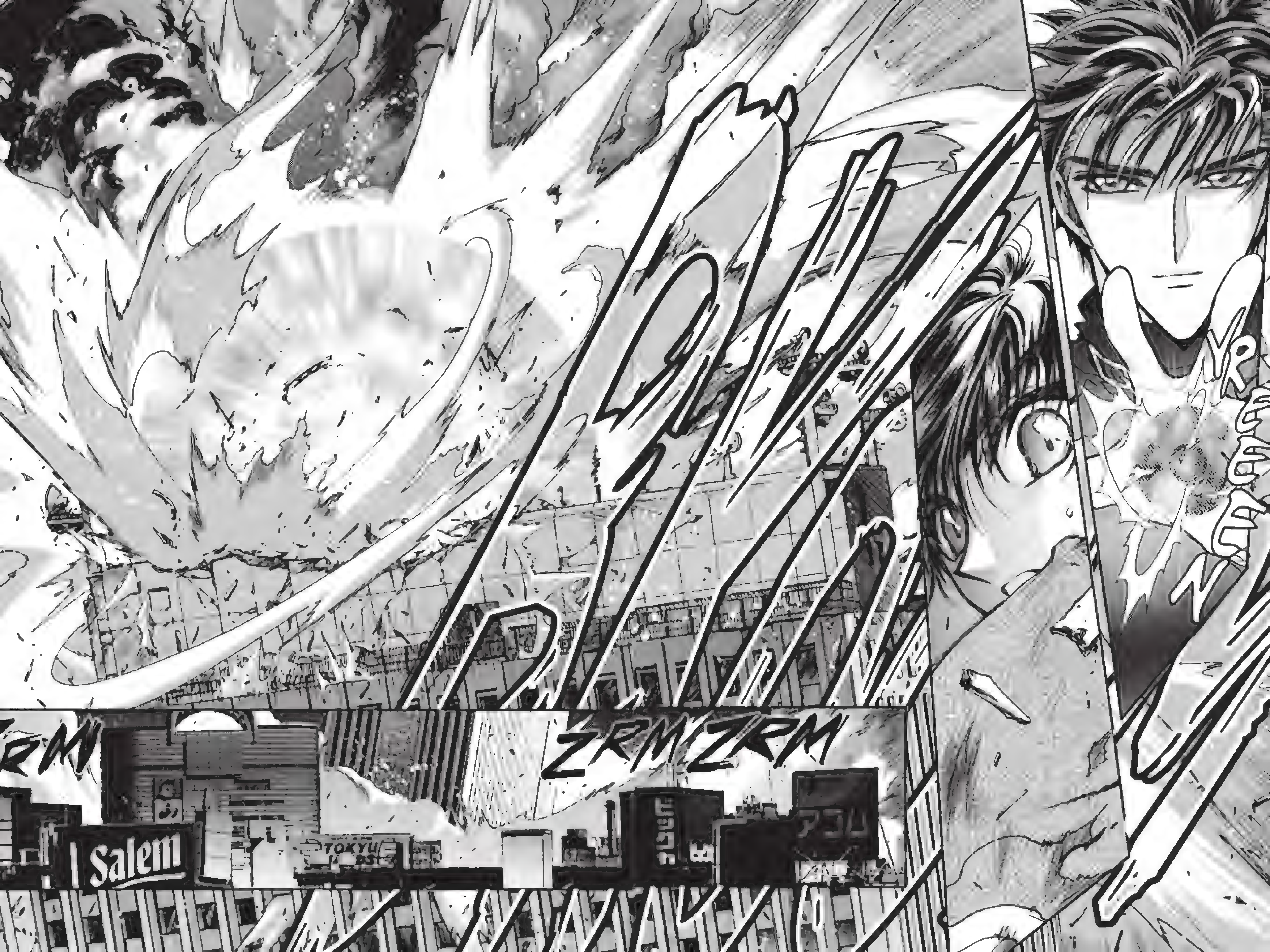


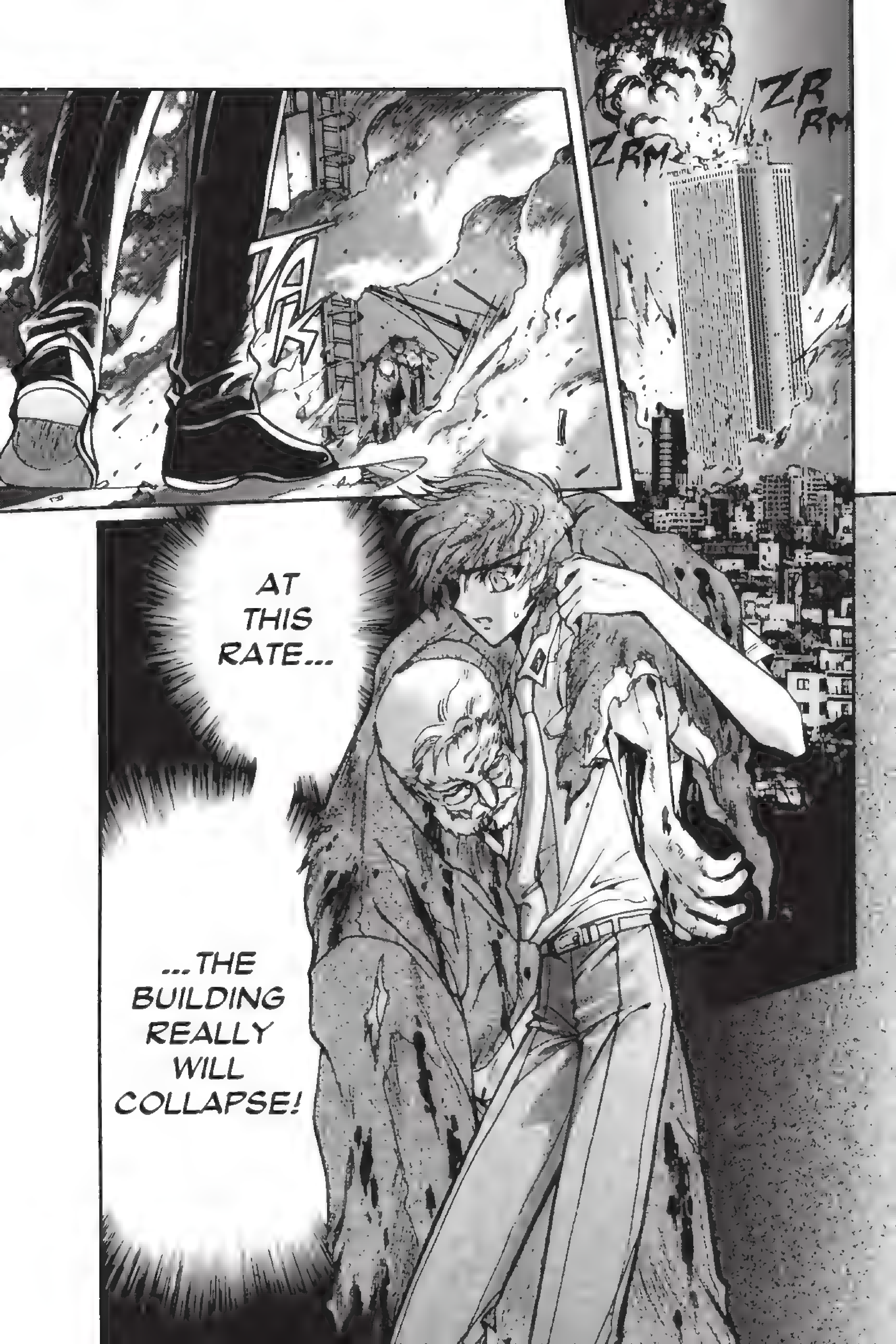

SHAOOO

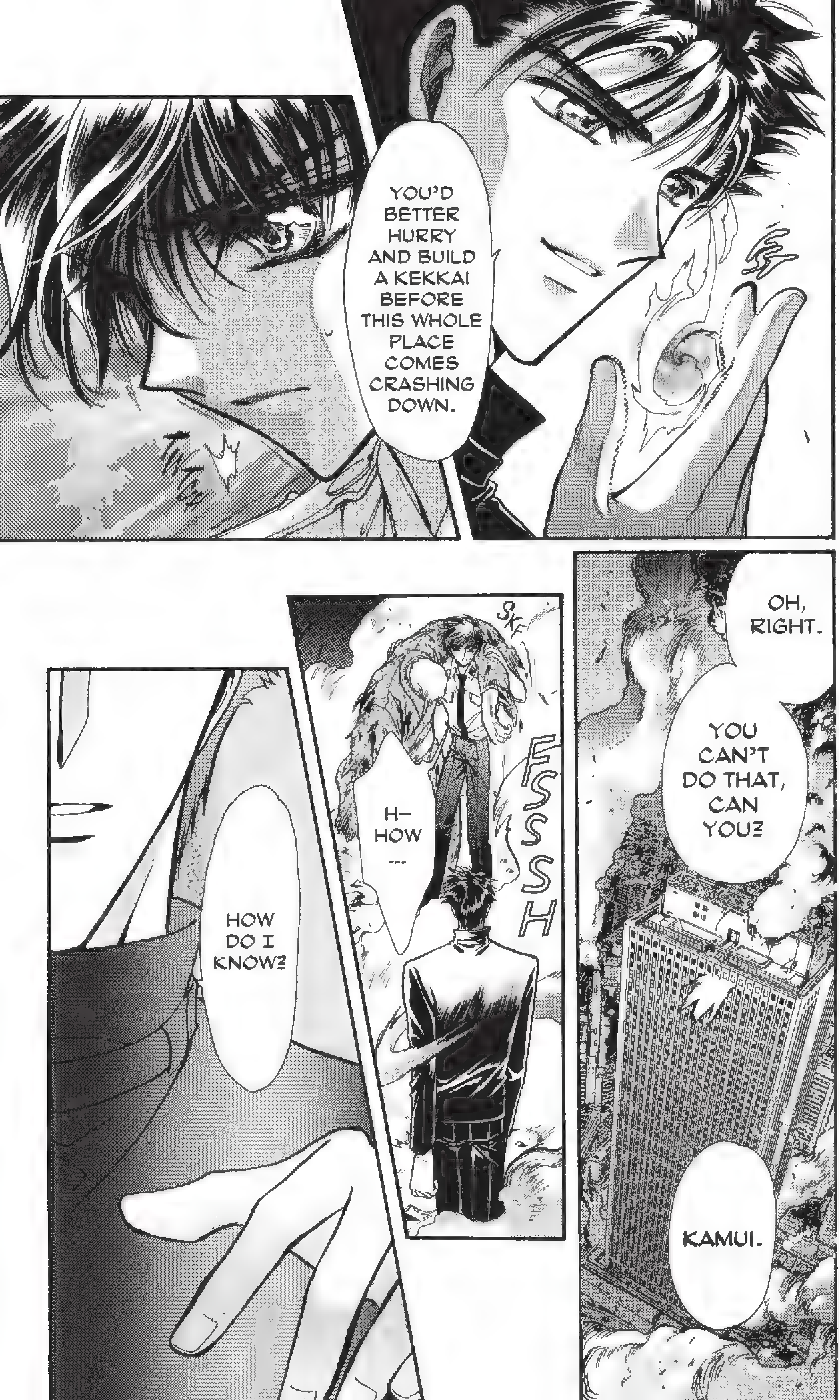

AH, PERFECT TIMING.
THUMP
WATCH. I'LL SHOW YOU SOMETHING AMUSING.
ZWIP
ZA
SH
WH—

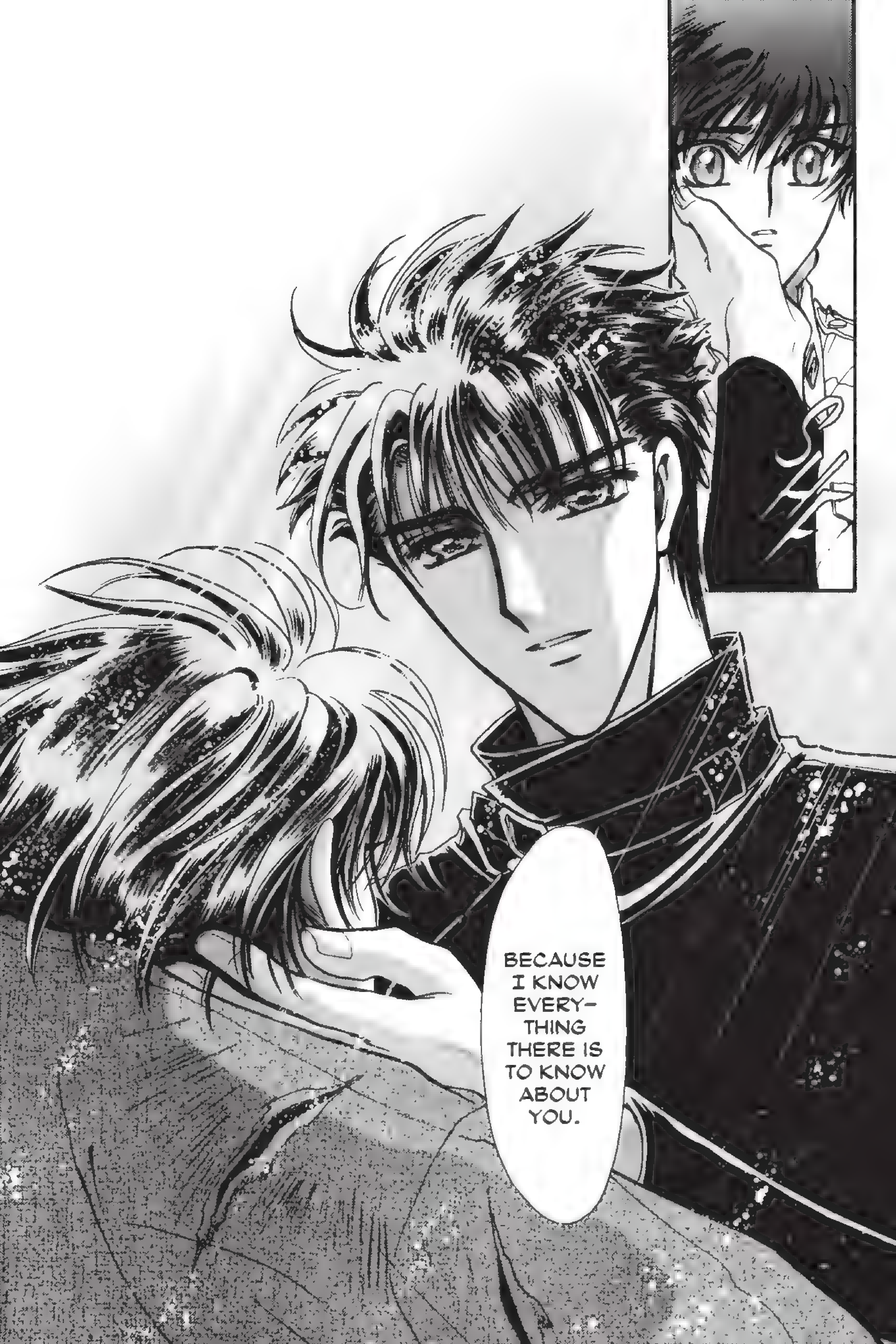

KASHUKRAASH
FWW
WHUD
WHY THE HEROICS? THIS MAN IS NOTHING TO YOU.
FWSSSH
FUMA ...
OR MAYBE ...

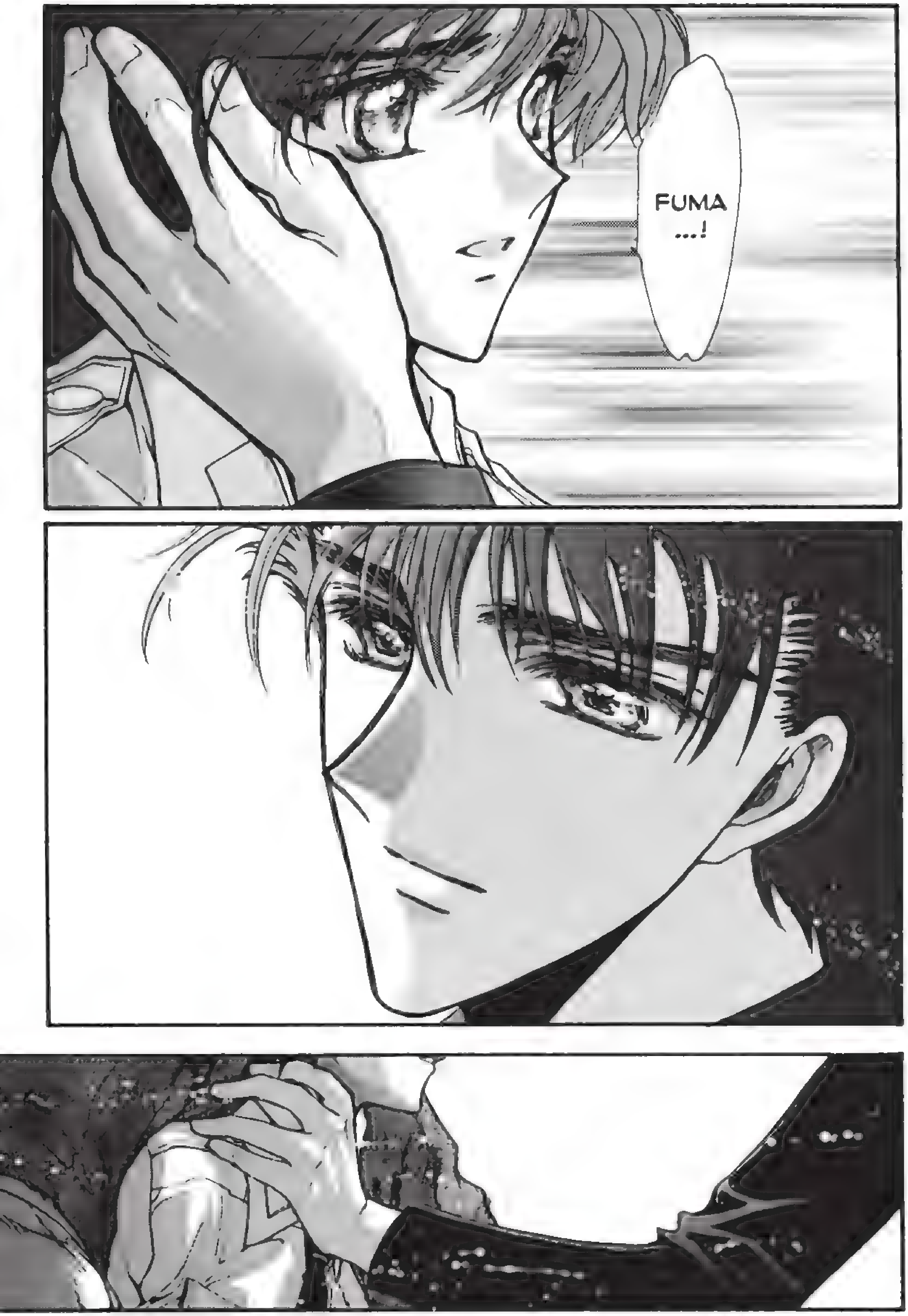

...YOU WANT ME TO PLAY WITH YOU INSTEAD?
ZASH
THUMP

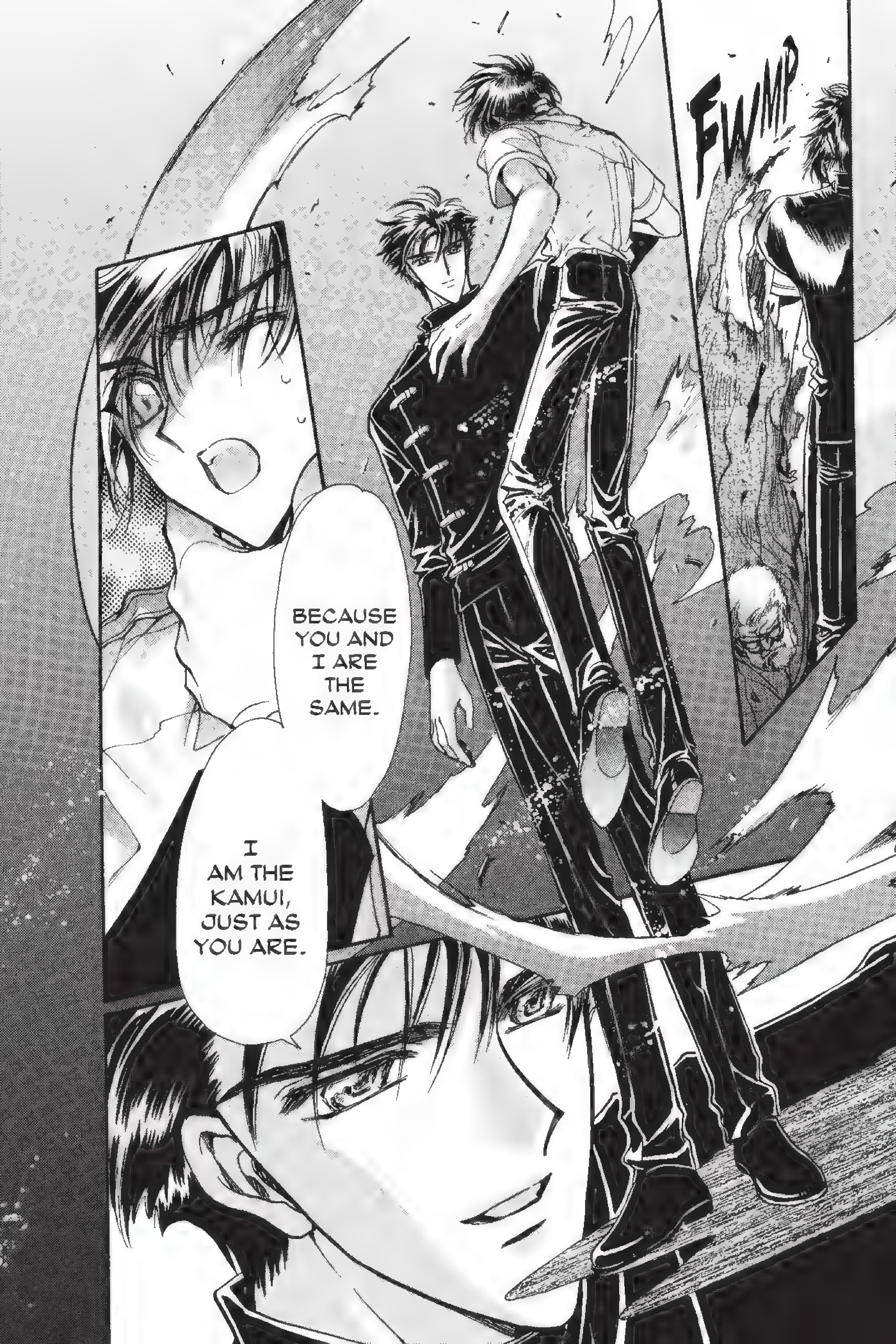

VREEEN
ZRM ZRM
ZRM
アコム
TOKYU
Salem

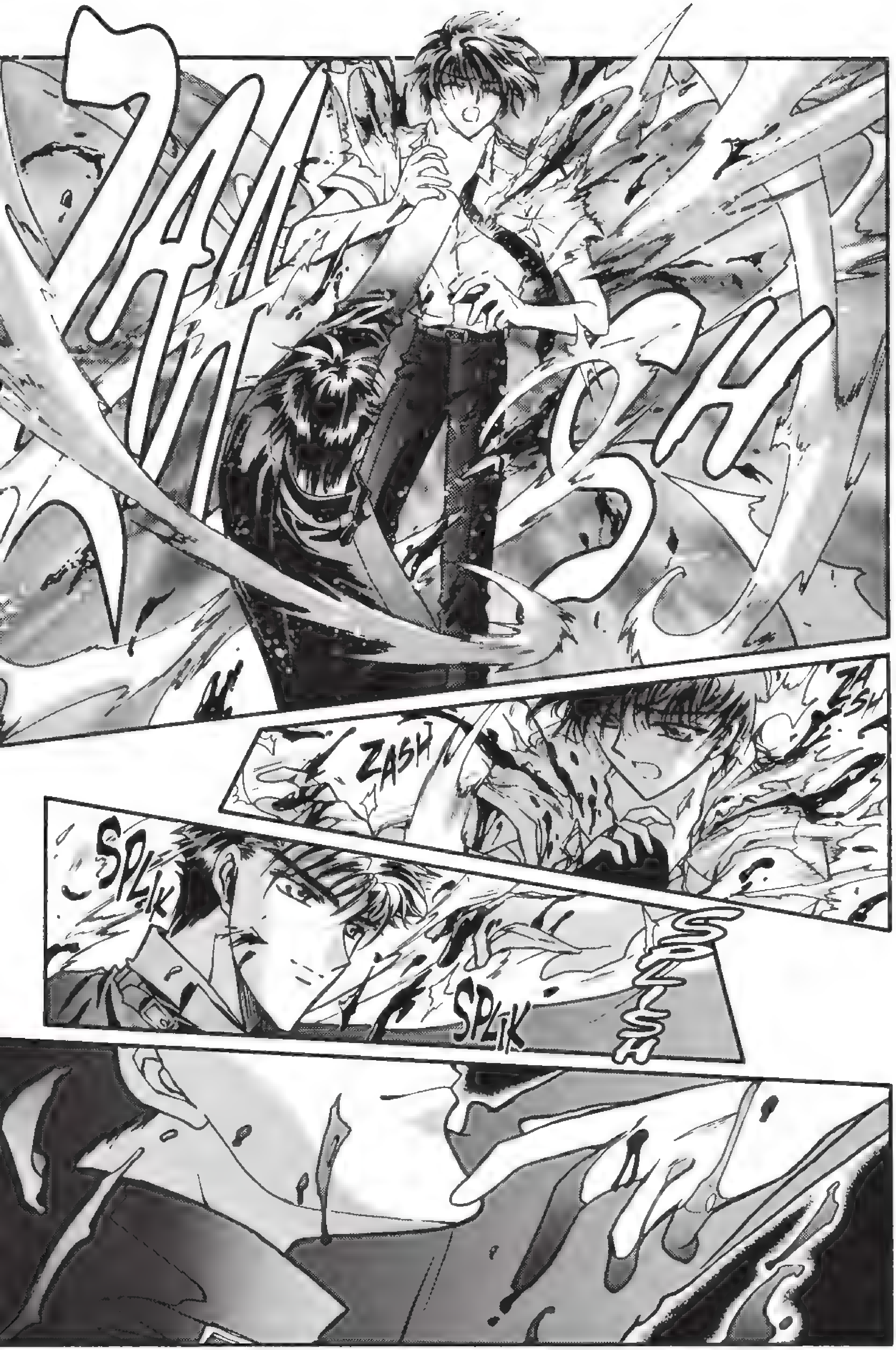

ZRRM
ZRM
TAK
AT THIS RATE...
...THE BUILDING REALLY WILL COLLAPSE!

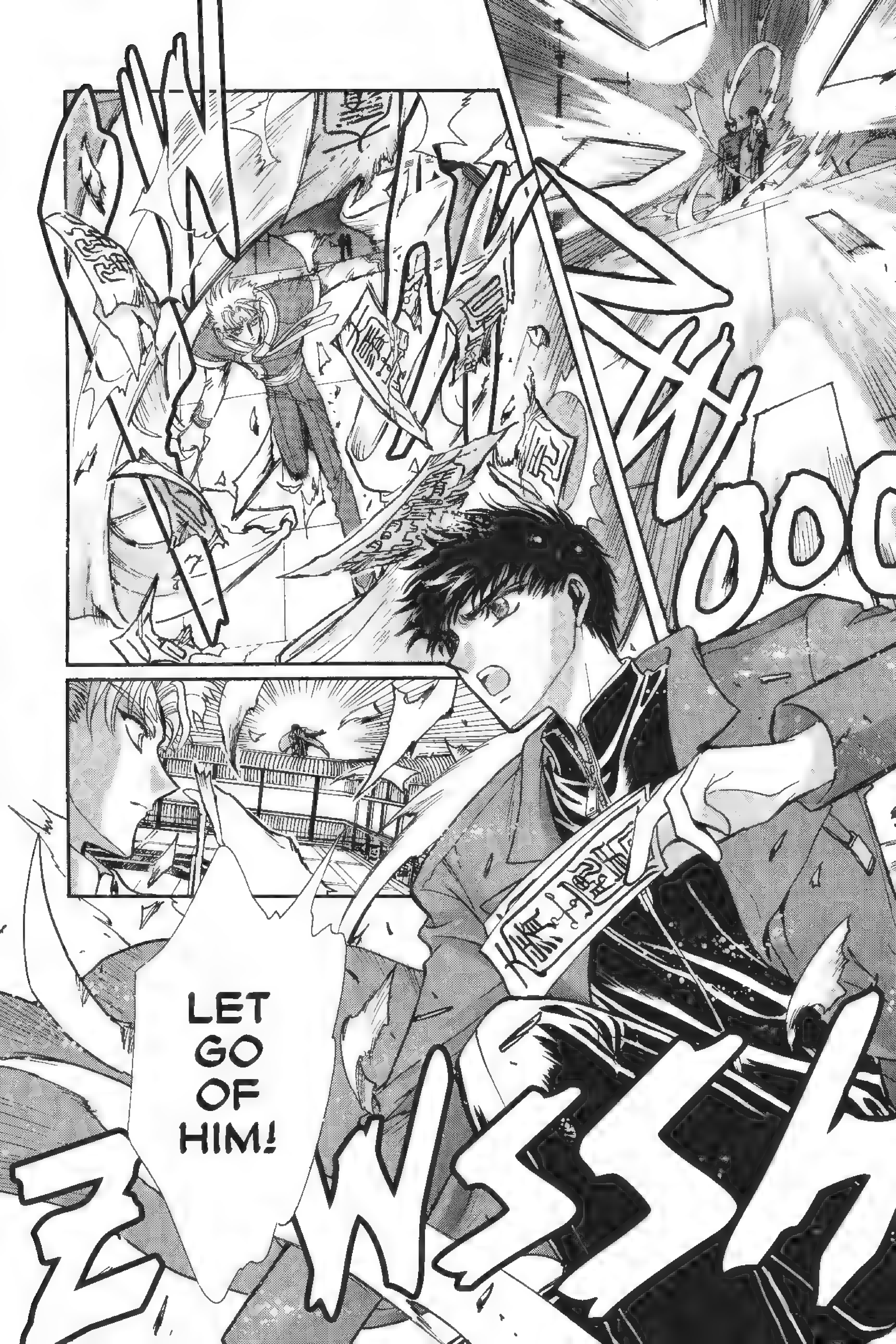

YOU'D BETTER HURRY AND BUILD A KEKKAI BEFORE THIS WHOLE PLACE COMES CRASHING DOWN.
OH, RIGHT.
YOU CAN'T DO THAT, CAN YOU?
KAMUI.
SKF
FSSSH
H-HOW ...
HOW DO I KNOW?

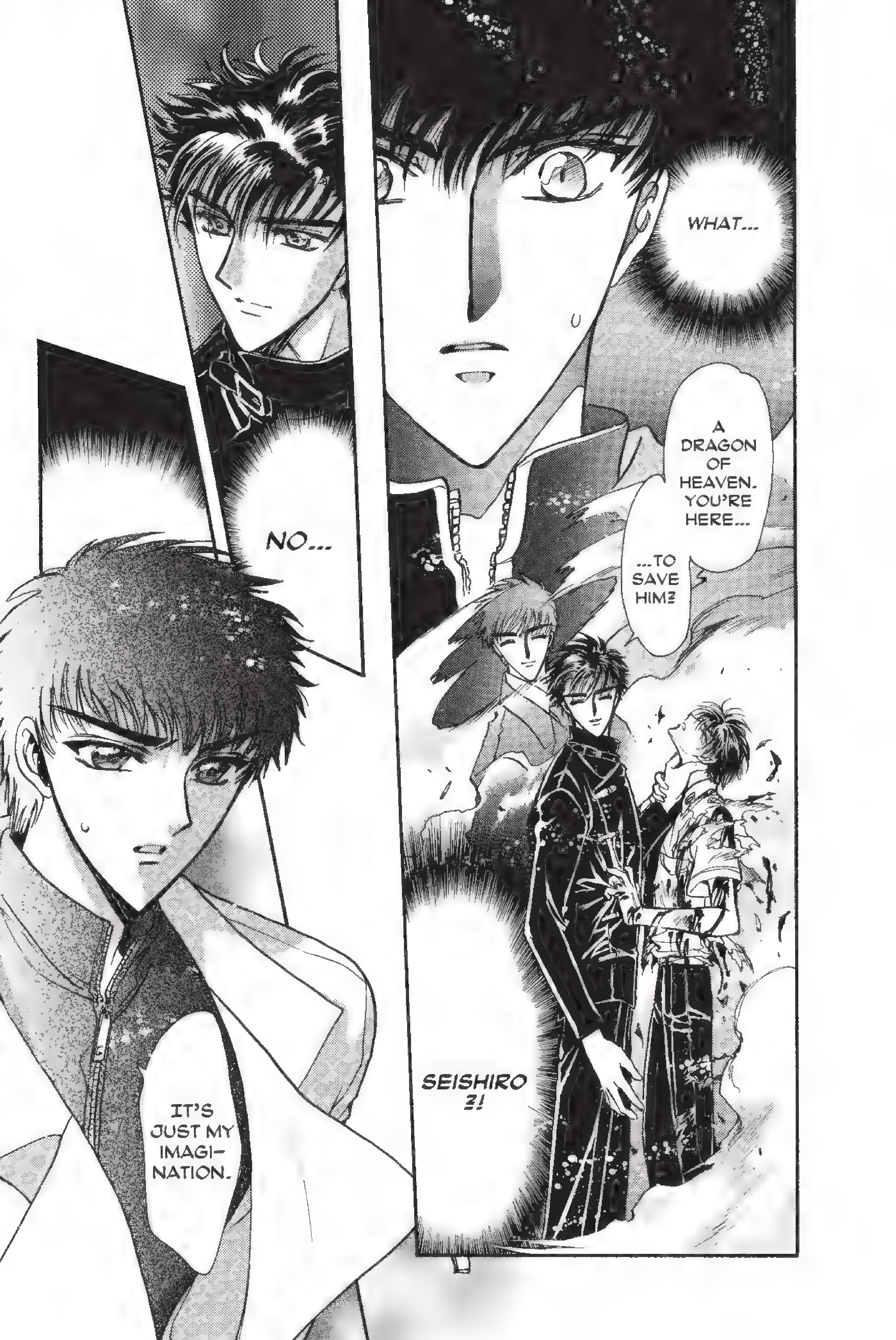

BECAUSE I KNOW EVERYTHING THERE IS TO KNOW ABOUT YOU.

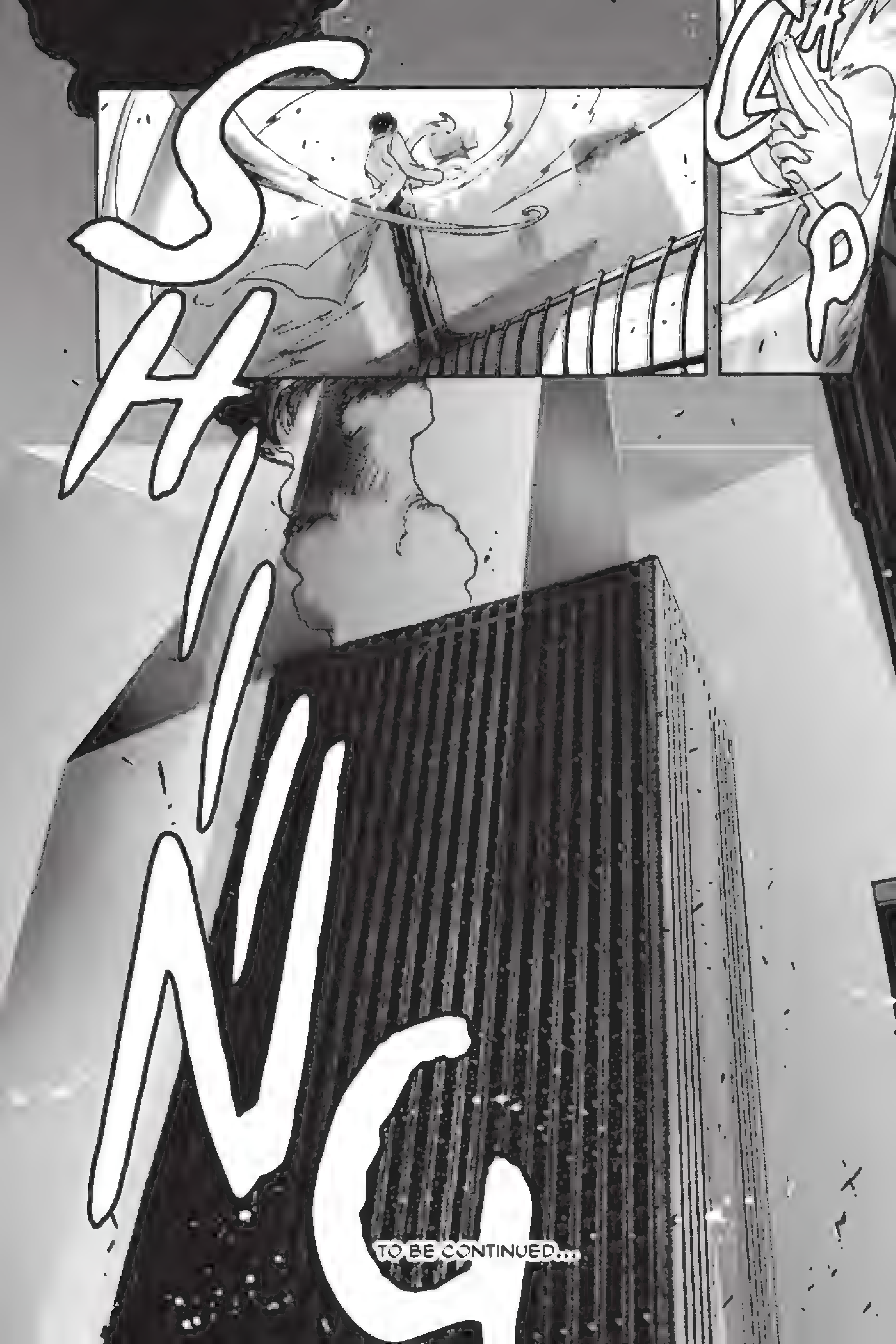

FUMA
...!


FWMP
BECAUSE YOU AND I ARE THE SAME.
I AM THE KAMUI, JUST AS YOU ARE.


ZAAASH
ZASH
ZASH
SPLISH
SPLIK
SPLIK


LET GO OF HIM!
ZWSSH

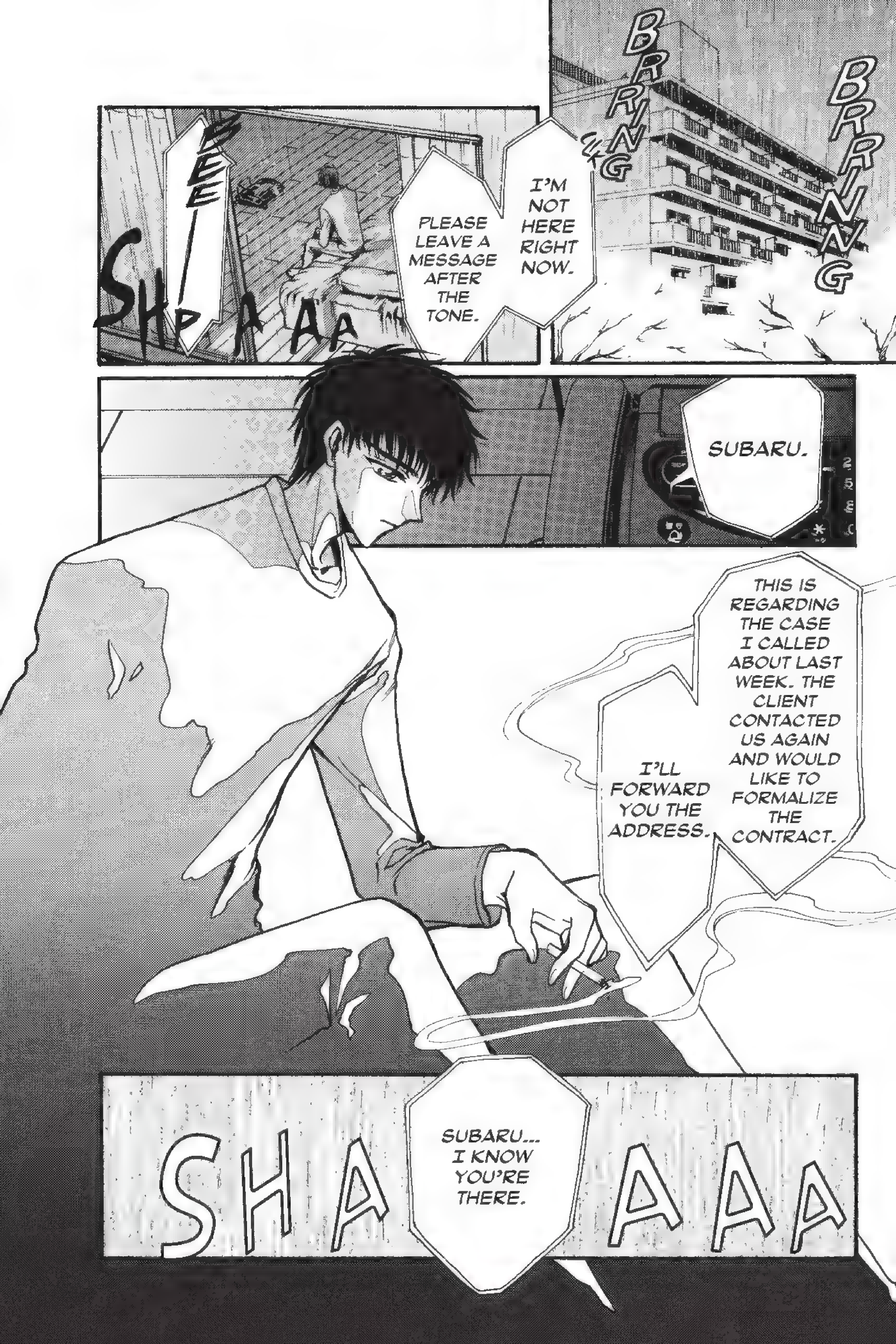

WHAT...
A DRAGON OF HEAVEN. YOU'RE HERE...
...TO SAVE HIM?
SEISHIRO?!
NO...
IT'S JUST MY IMAGINATION.

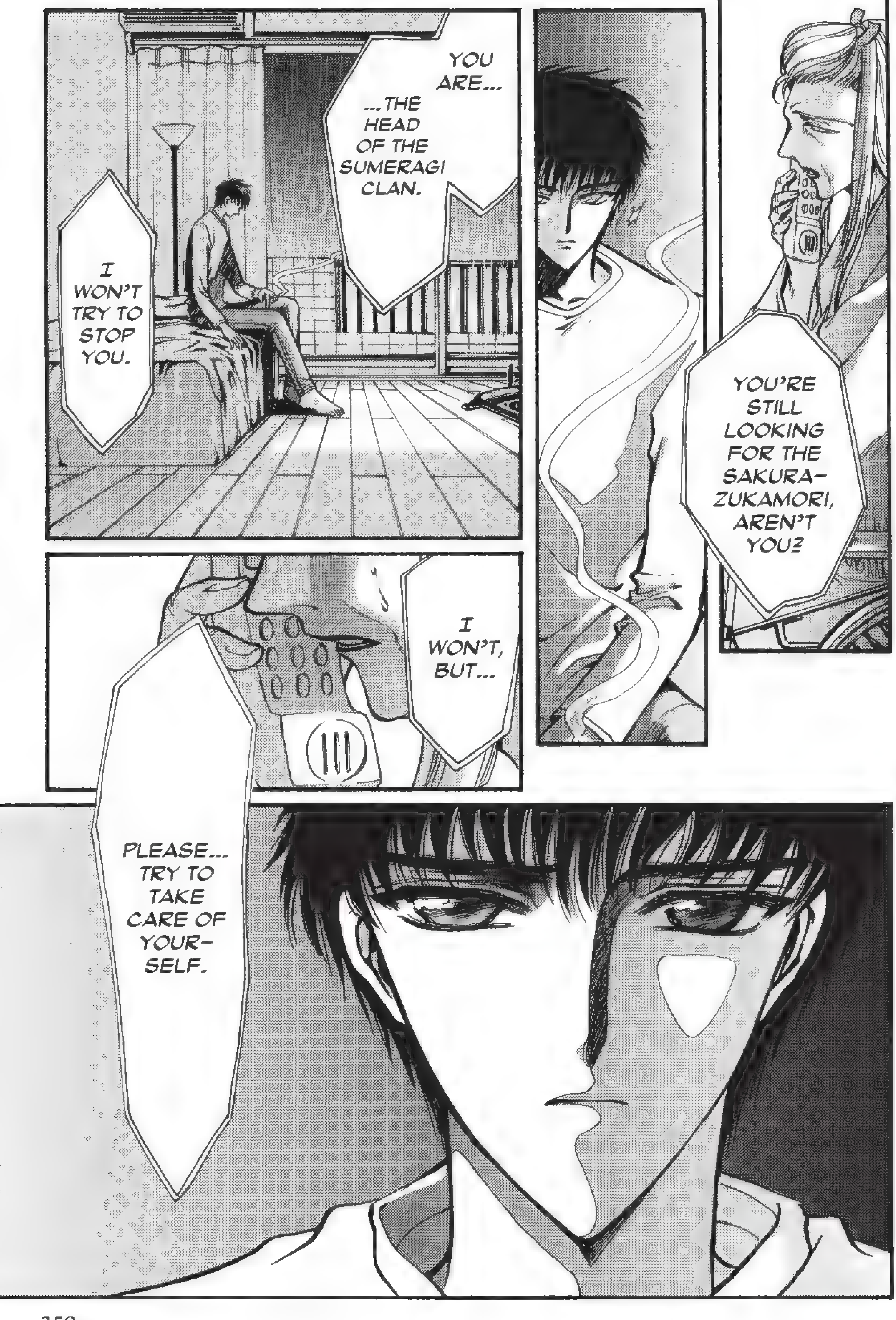

CHAP
SHING
TO BE CONTINUED...

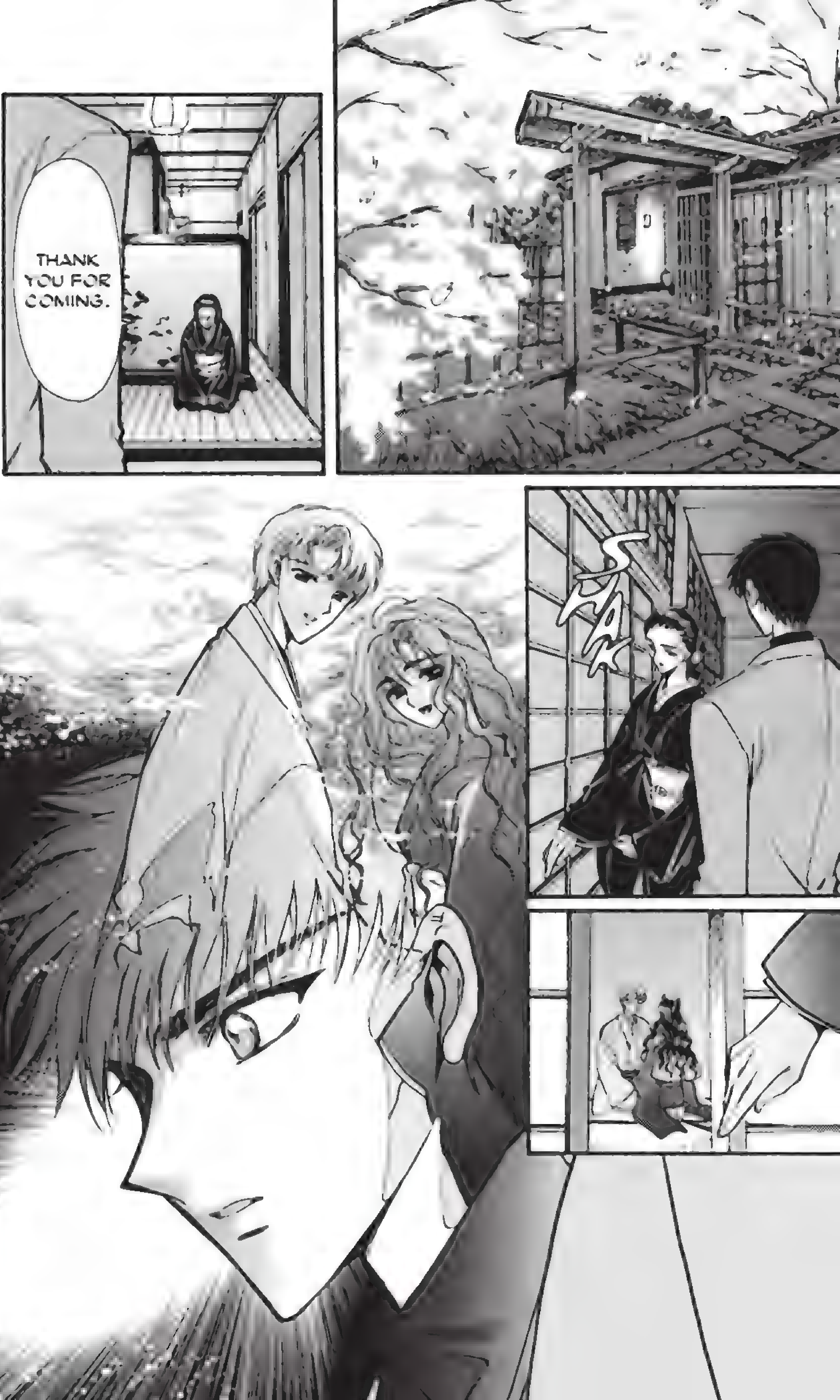
X

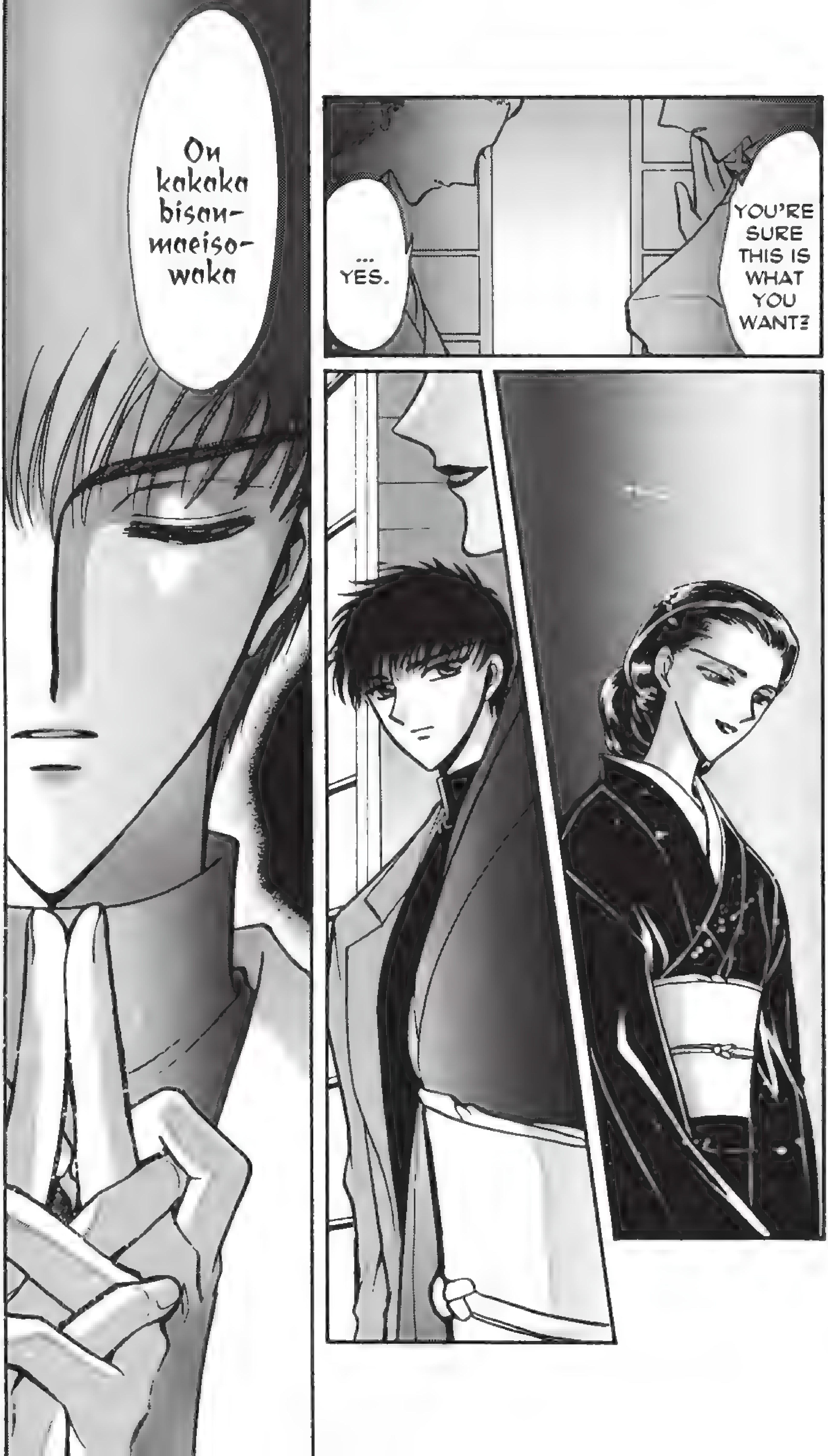
X

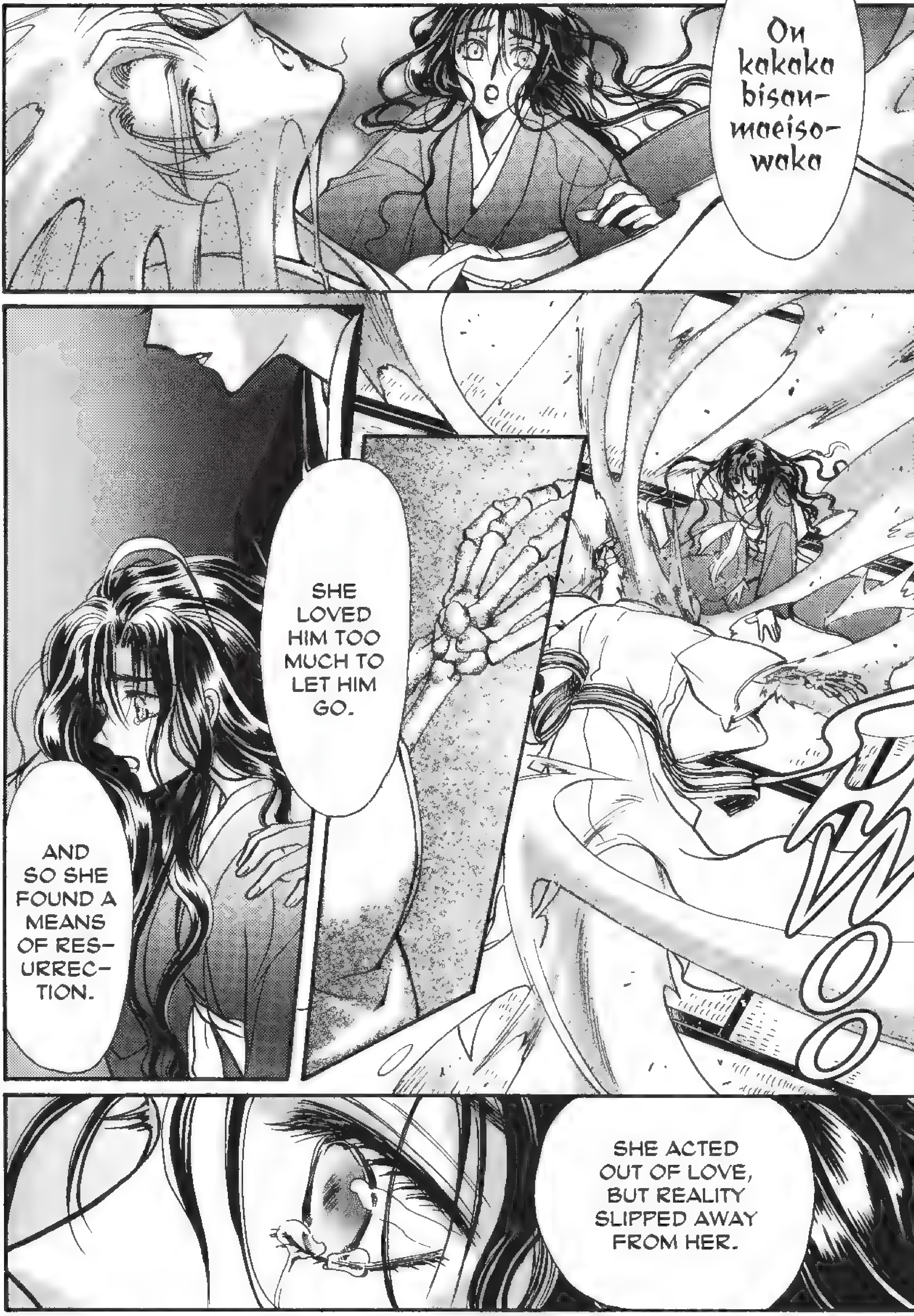
SUBARU SUMERAGI

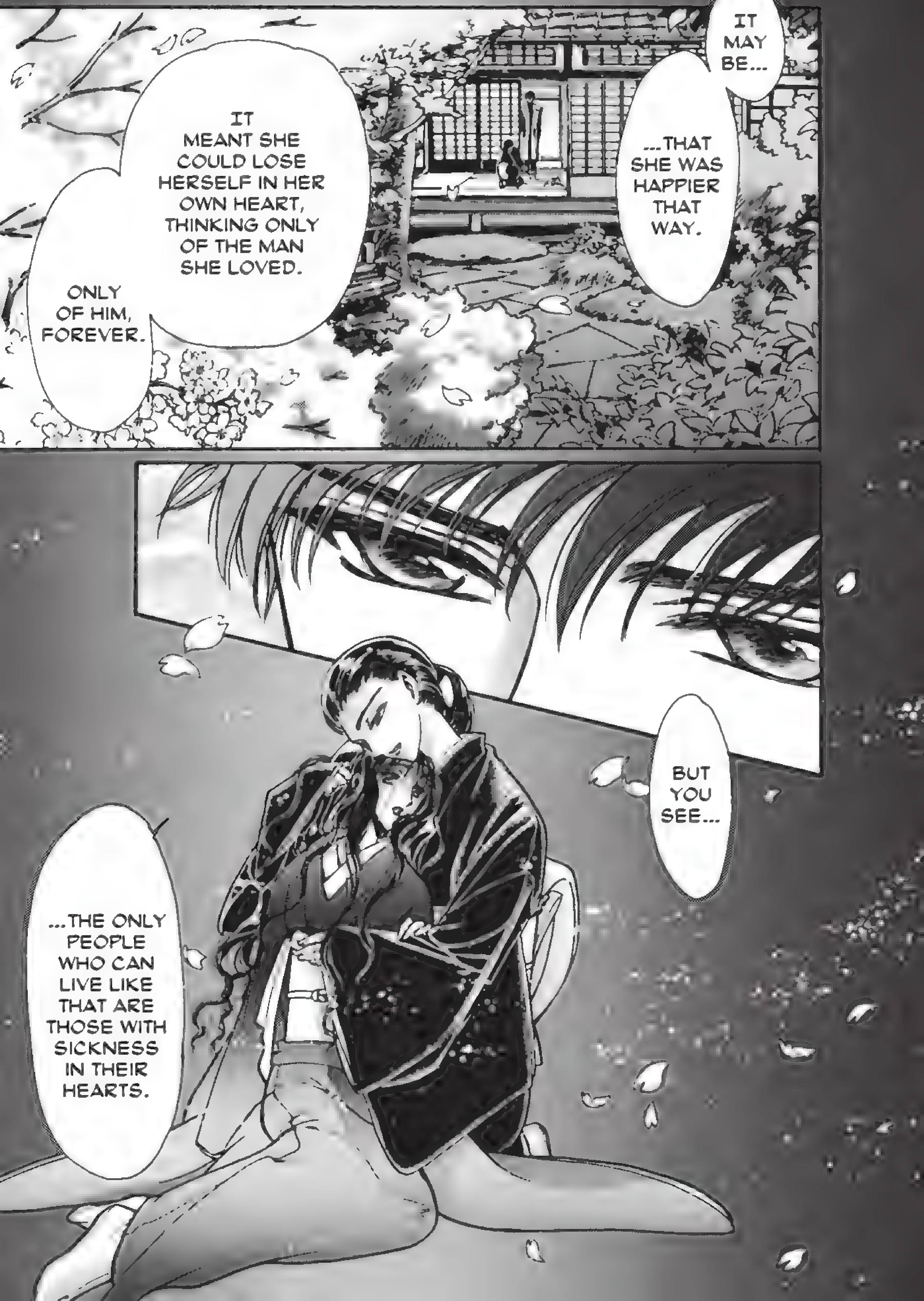

BRRRING
BRRRING
CLIK
I'M NOT HERE RIGHT NOW.
PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE AFTER THE TONE.
BEEEP!
SHAAAA
SUBARU.
THIS IS REGARDING THE CASE I CALLED ABOUT LAST WEEK. THE CLIENT CONTACTED US AGAIN AND WOULD LIKE TO FORMALIZE THE CONTRACT.
I'LL FORWARD YOU THE ADDRESS.
SHAAAA
SUBARU... I KNOW YOU'RE THERE.

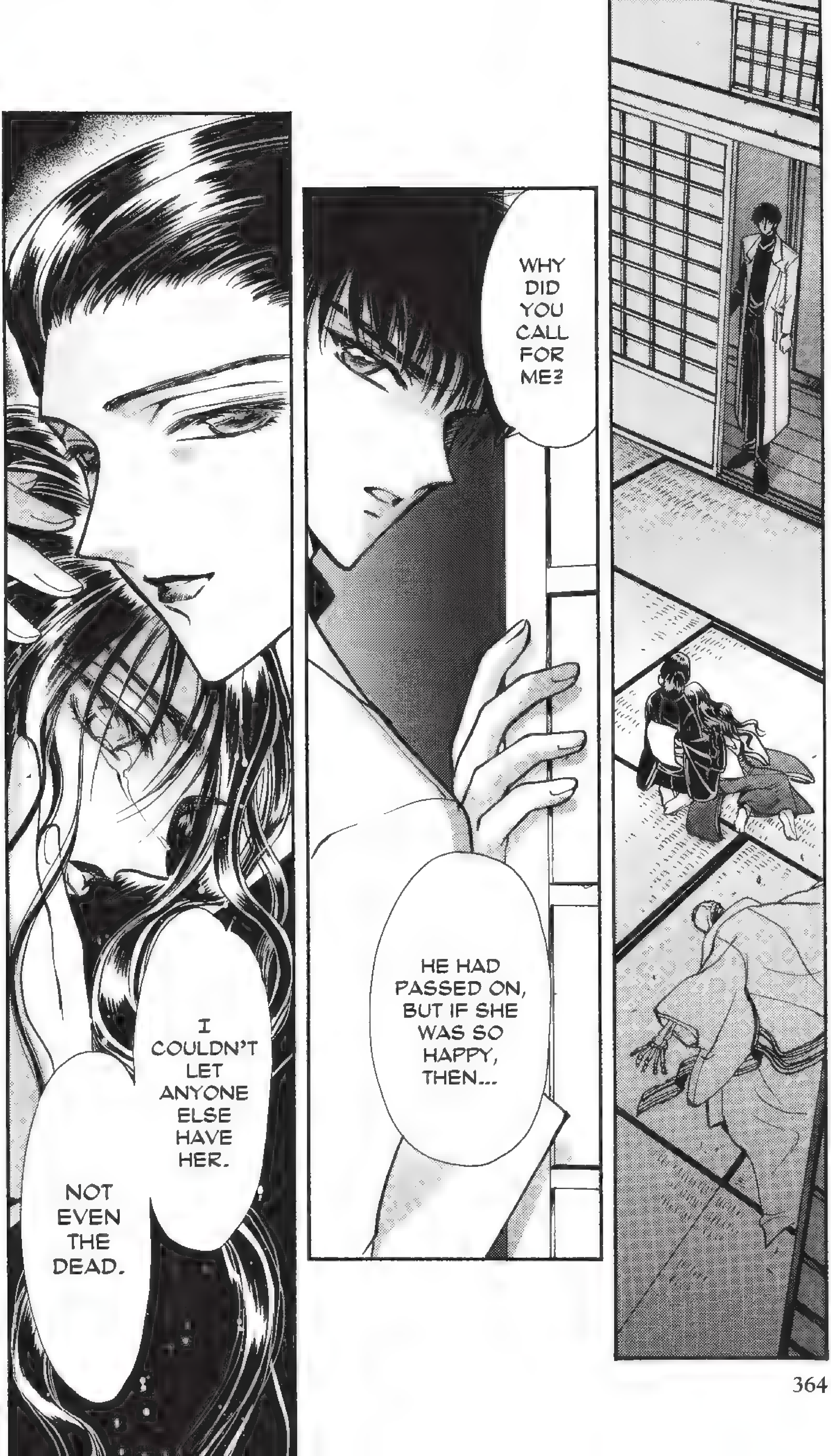

YOU'RE STILL LOOKING FOR THE SAKURAZUKAMORI, AREN'T YOU?
YOU ARE...
...THE HEAD OF THE SUMERAGI CLAN.
I WON'T TRY TO STOP YOU.
I WON'T, BUT...
PLEASE... TRY TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.

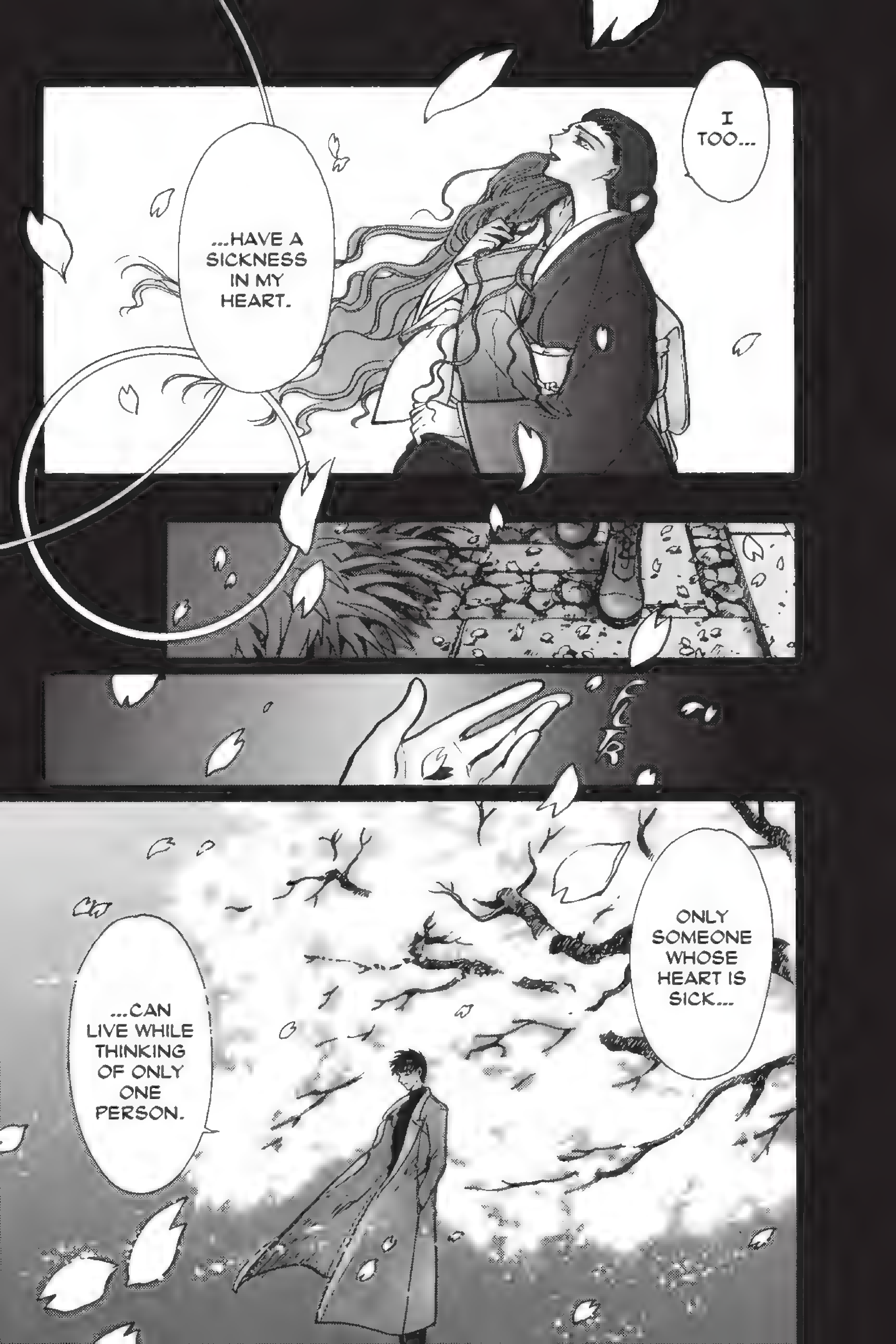

THANK YOU FOR COMING.
SHAK

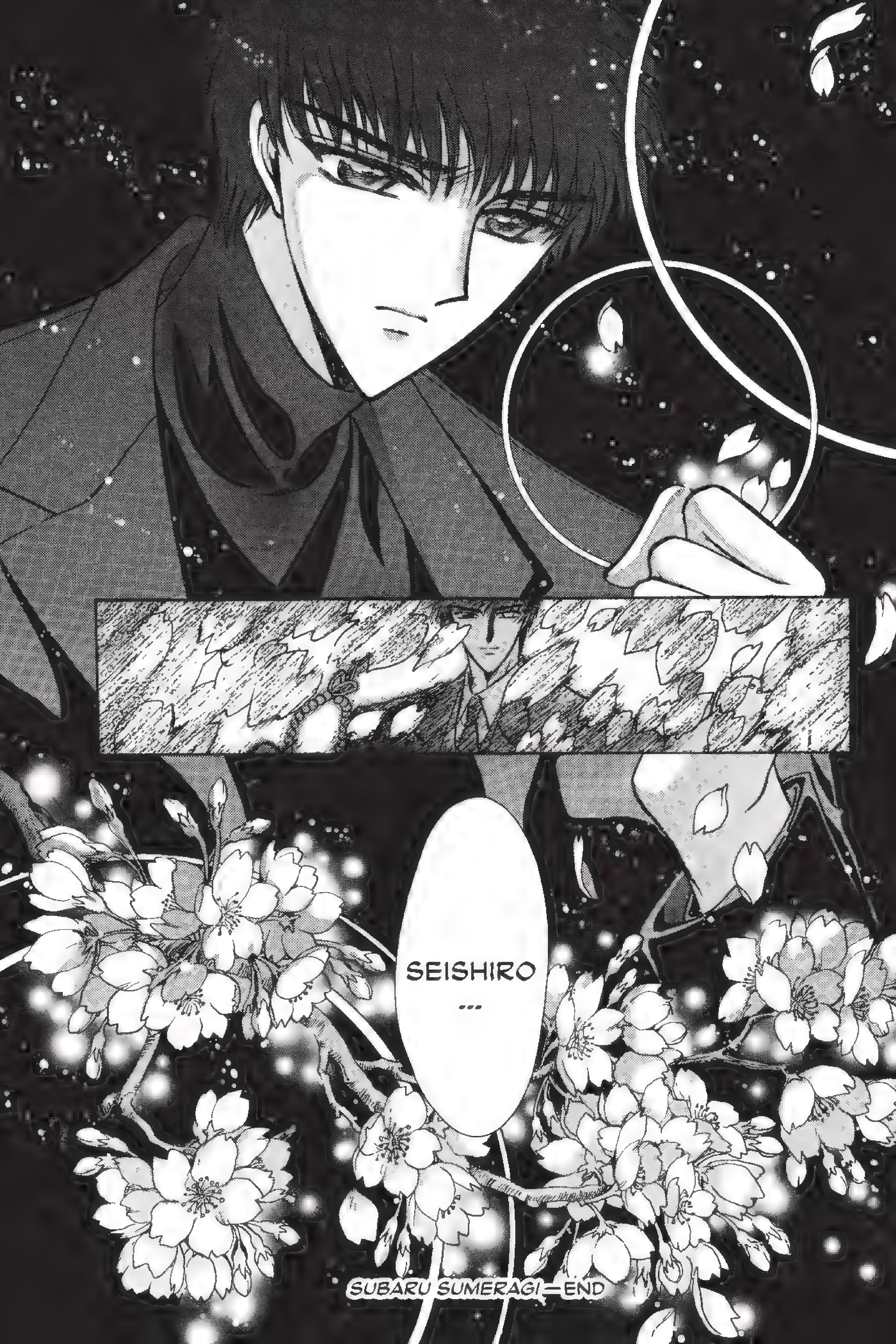

YOU'RE SURE THIS IS WHAT YOU WANT?
... YES.
On kakaka bisanmaeisowaka


On kakaka bisan-maeiso-waka
SHE LOVED HIM TOO MUCH TO LET HIM GO.
WOO
AND SO SHE FOUND A MEANS OF RESURRECTION.
SHE ACTED OUT OF LOVE, BUT REALITY SLIPPED AWAY FROM HER.


IT MAY BE...
...THAT SHE WAS HAPPIER THAT WAY.
IT MEANT SHE COULD LOSE HERSELF IN HER OWN HEART, THINKING ONLY OF THE MAN SHE LOVED.
ONLY OF HIM, FOREVER.
BUT YOU SEE...
...THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO CAN LIVE LIKE THAT ARE THOSE WITH SICKNESS IN THEIR HEARTS.


WHY DID YOU CALL FOR ME?
HE HAD PASSED ON, BUT IF SHE WAS SO HAPPY, THEN...
I COULDN'T LET ANYONE ELSE HAVE HER.
NOT EVEN THE DEAD.


I TOO...
...HAVE A SICKNESS IN MY HEART.
ONLY SOMEONE WHOSE HEART IS SICK...
...CAN LIVE WHILE THINKING OF ONLY ONE PERSON.



SUBARU SUMERAGI—END

X

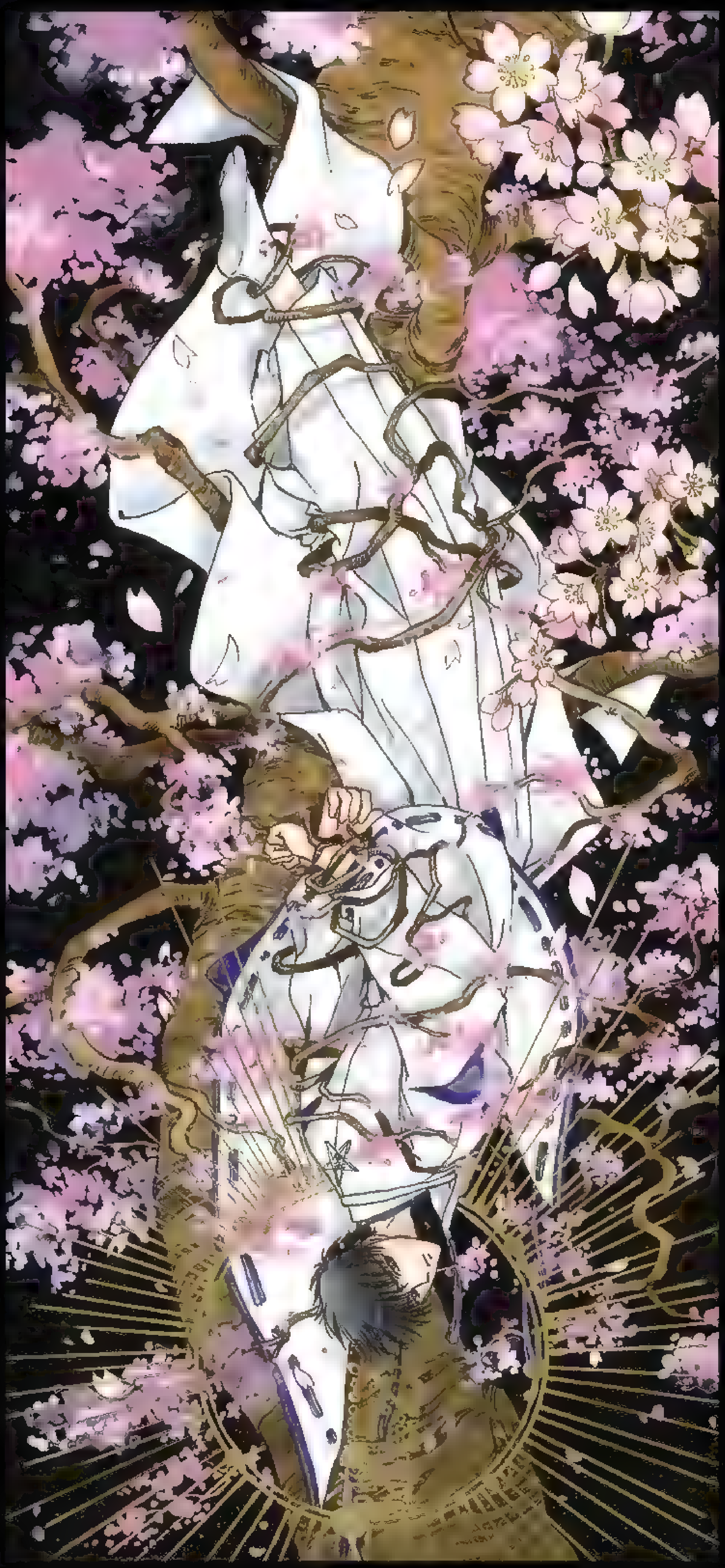
X

VOLUME 4, PART 3

KEKKAI II

Words rise and fall,
and lose them. Sometimes
ROBERTS
Patsy Nishina
LONDON

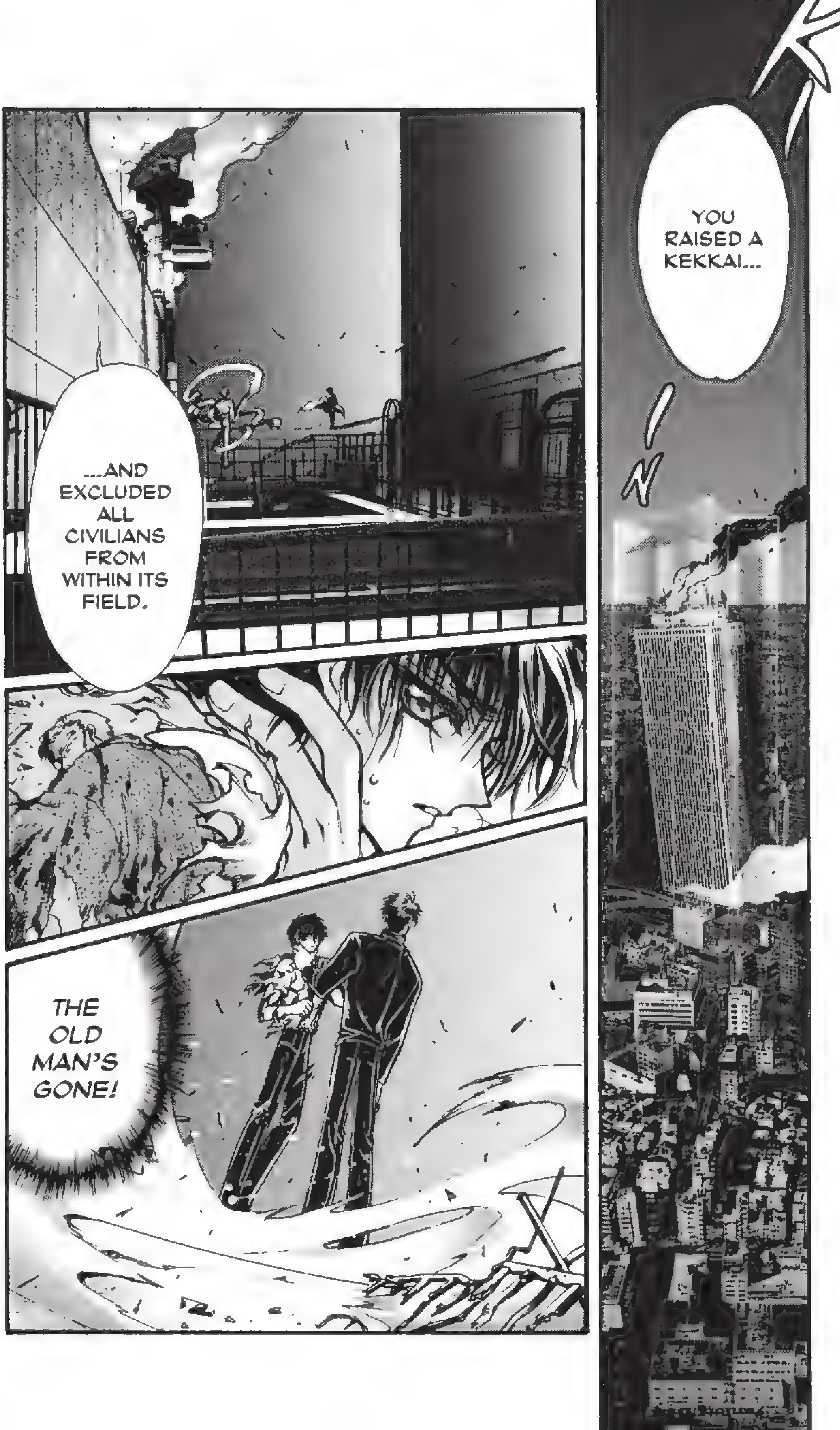
X

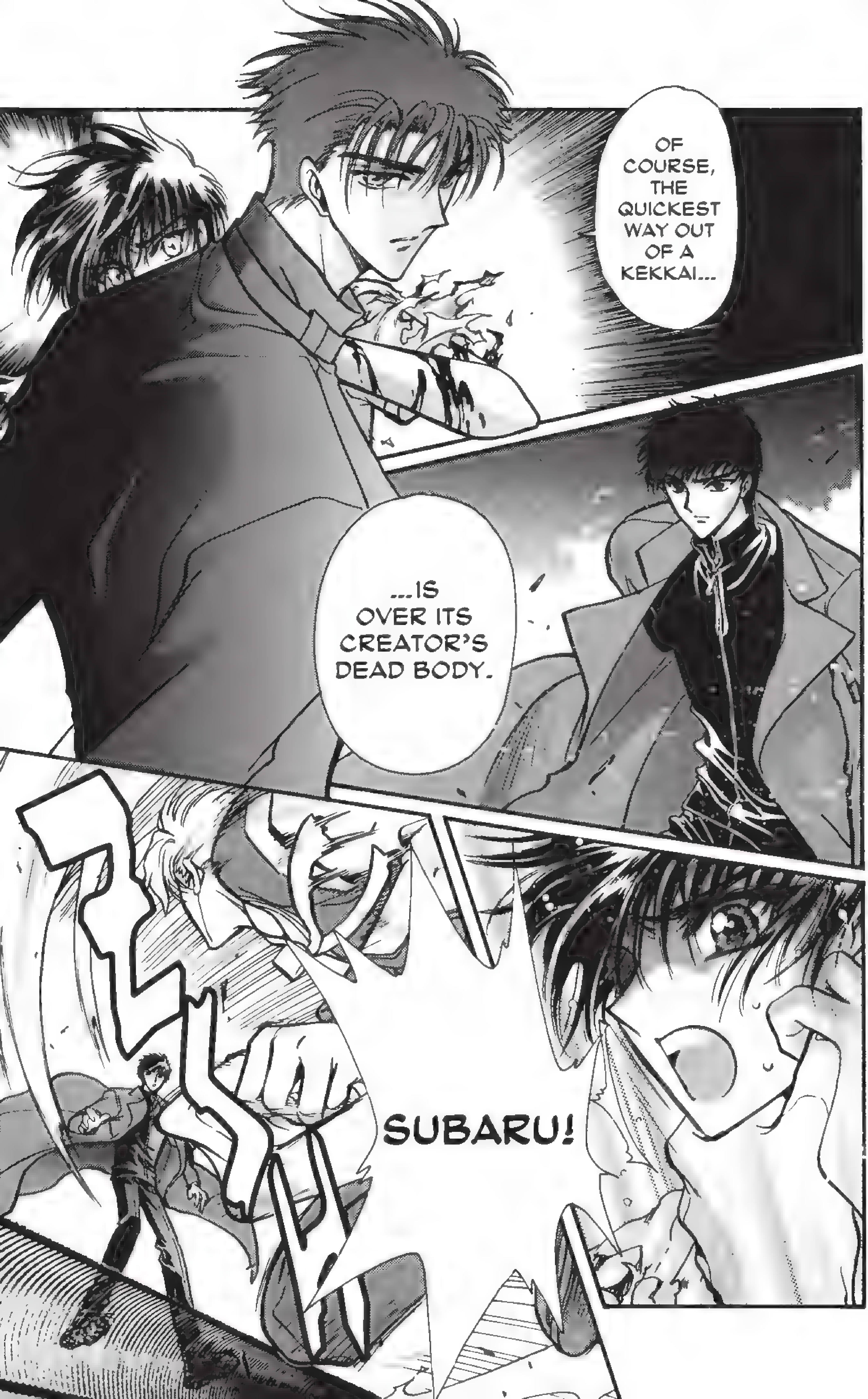


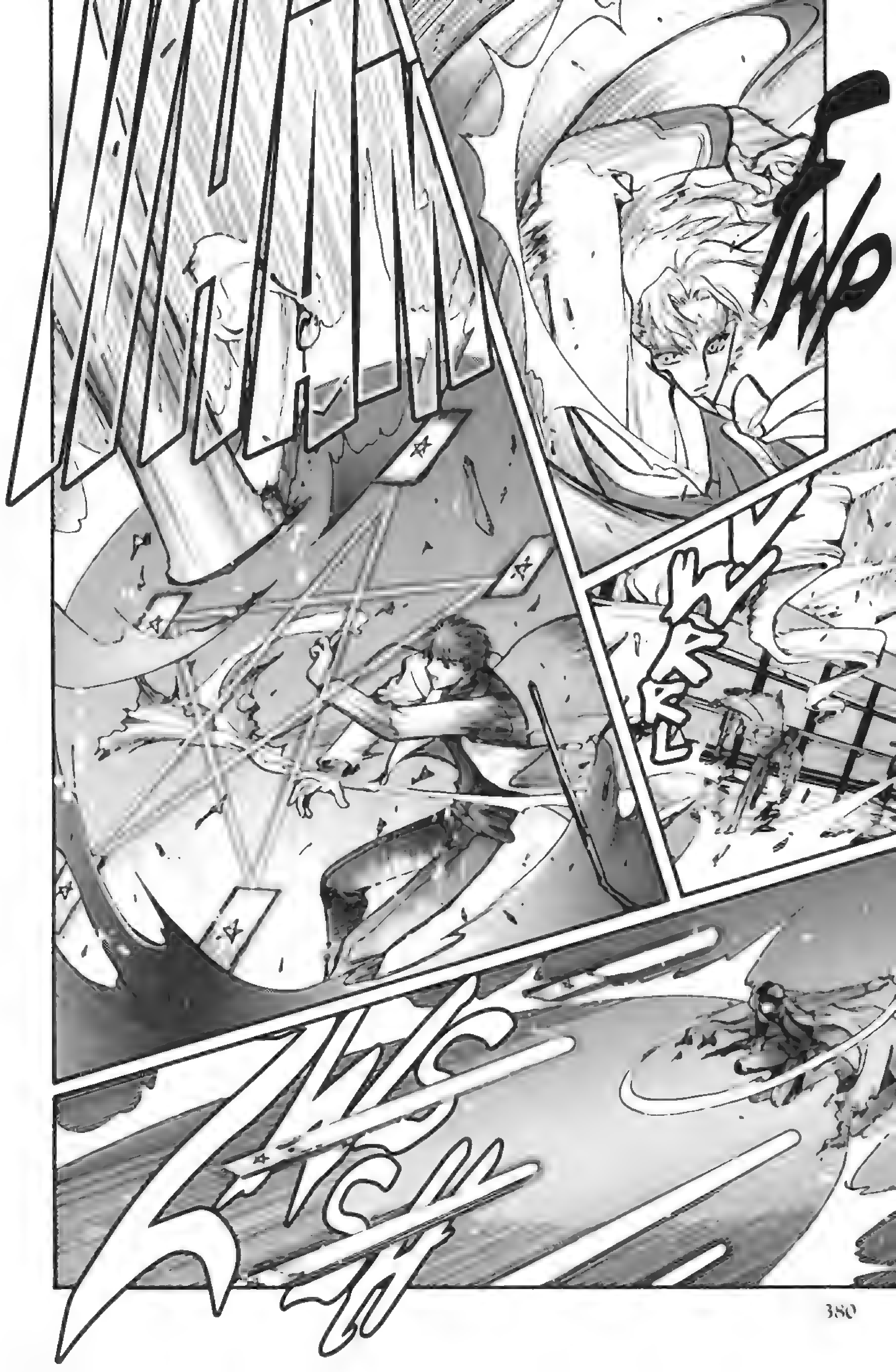
12 THE HANGED MAN

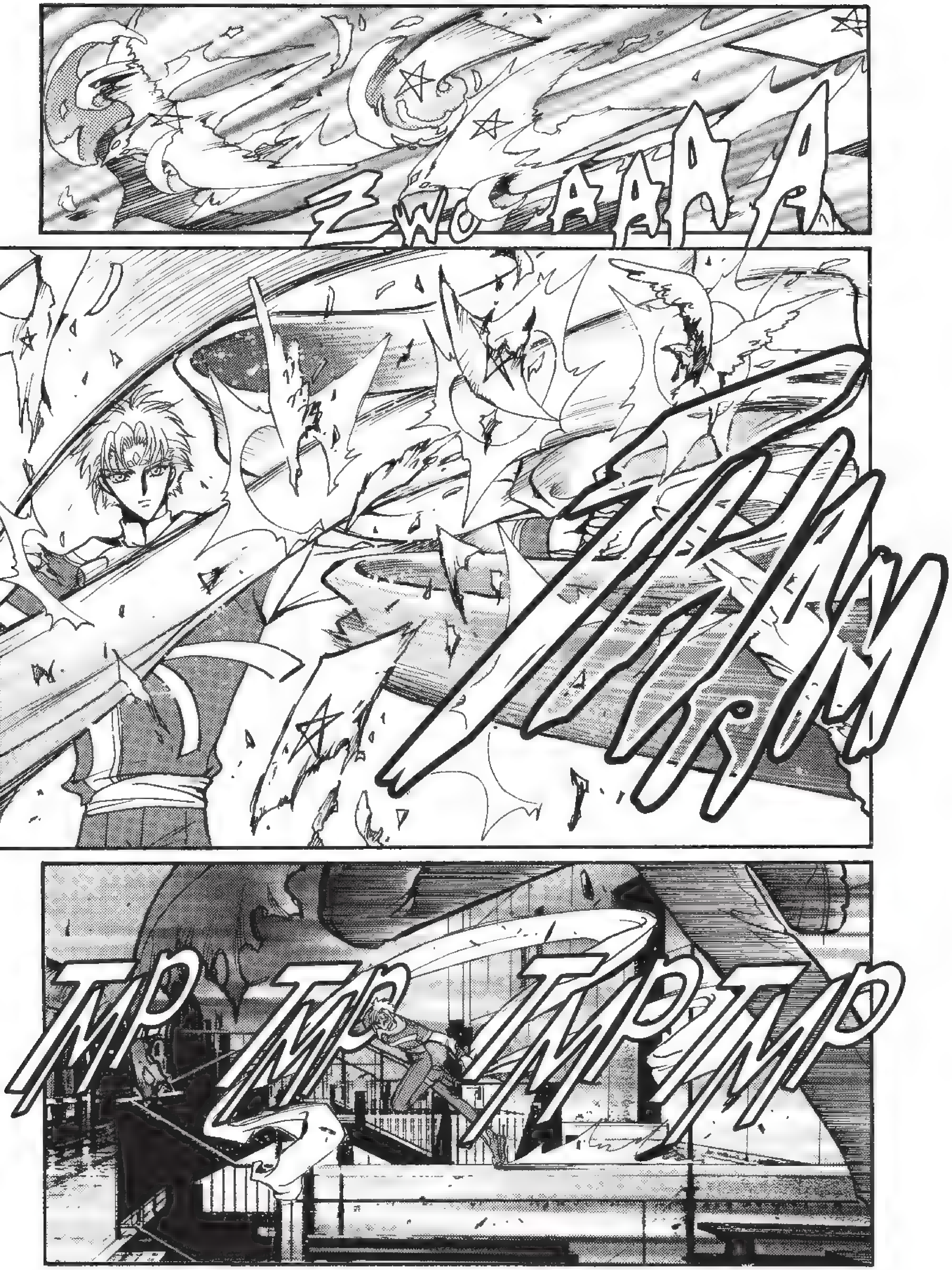
מ

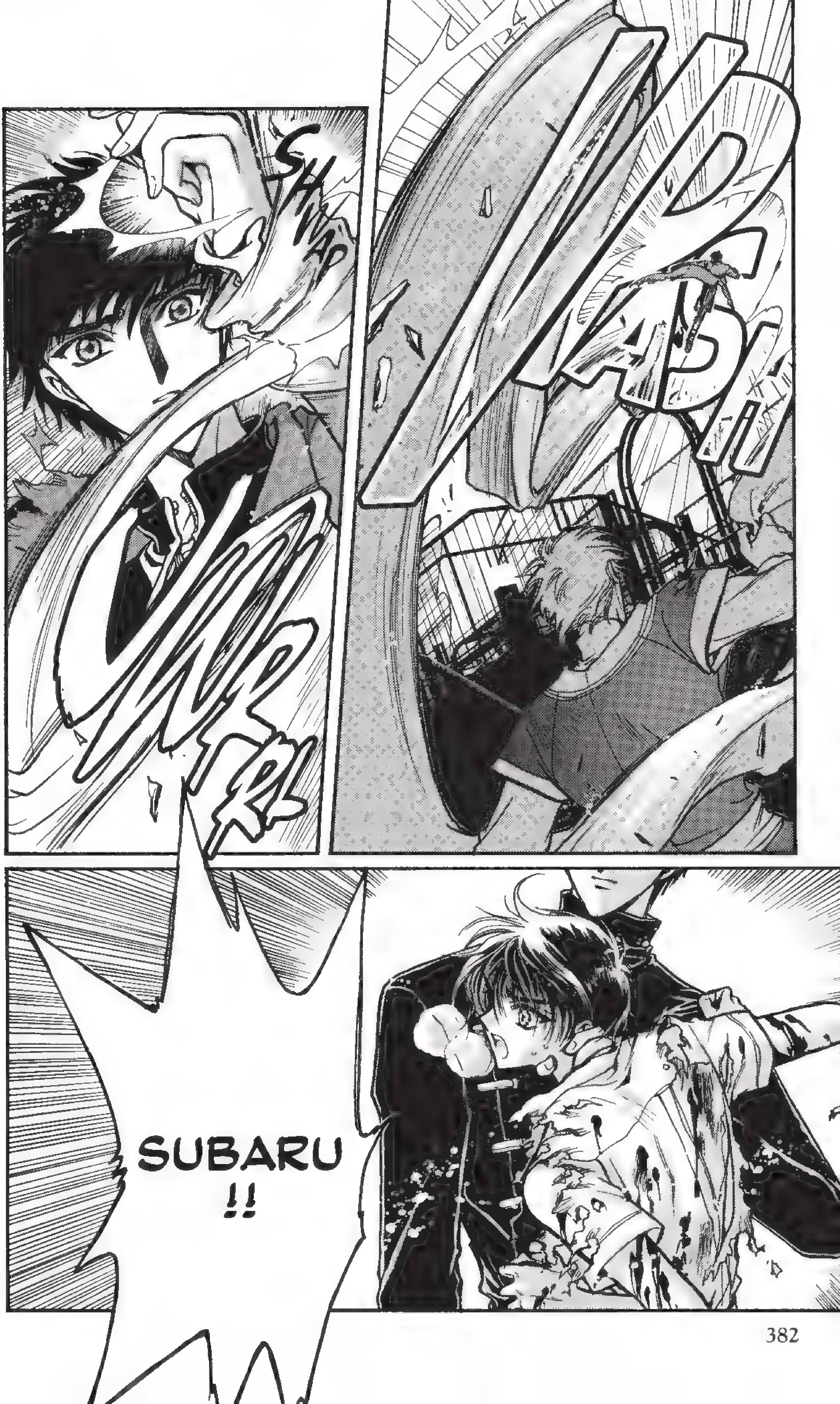
SHIIIN

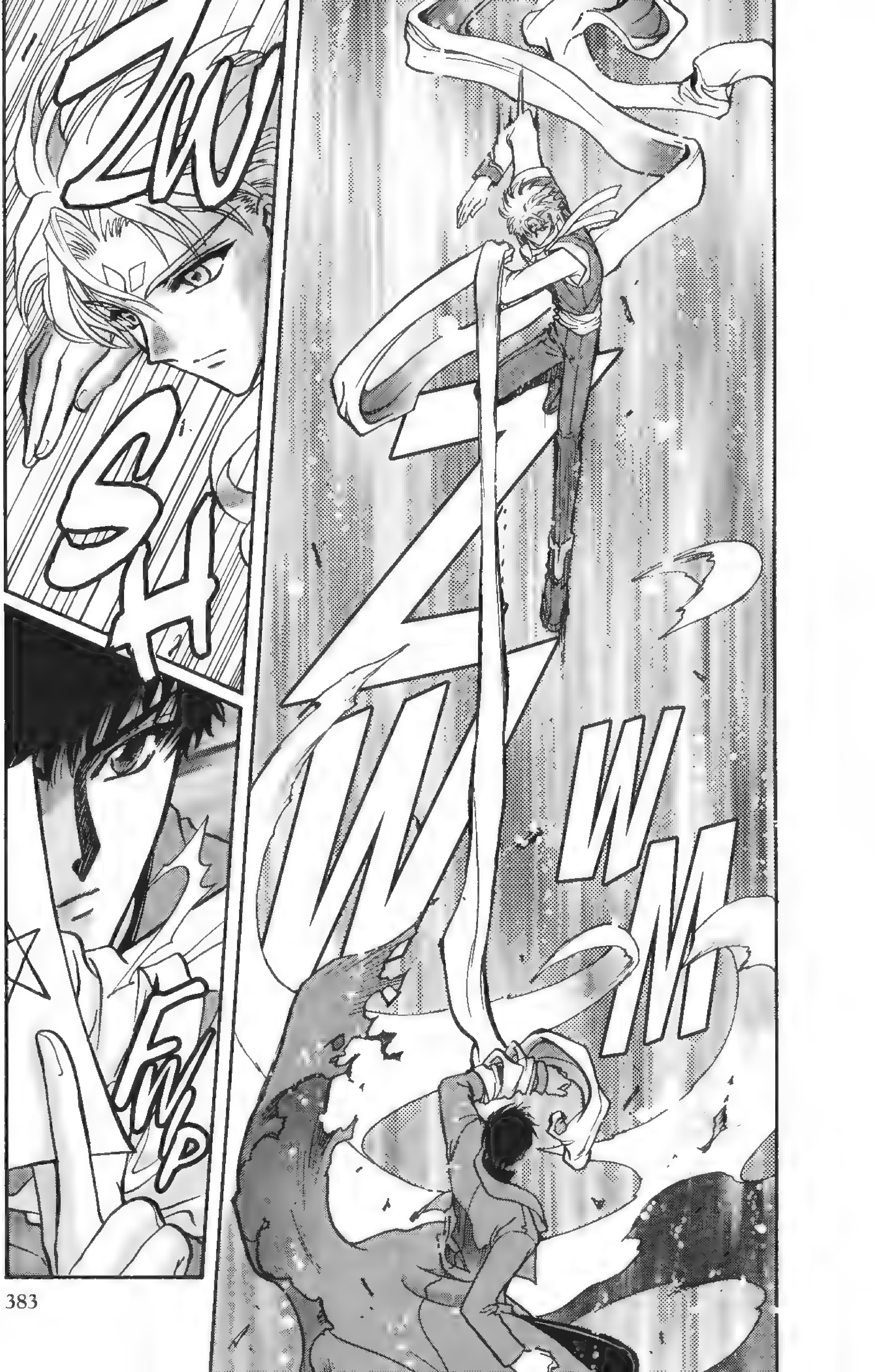

KIN
YOU RAISED A KEKKAI...
...AND EXCLUDED ALL CIVILIANS FROM WITHIN ITS FIELD.
THE OLD MAN'S GONE!

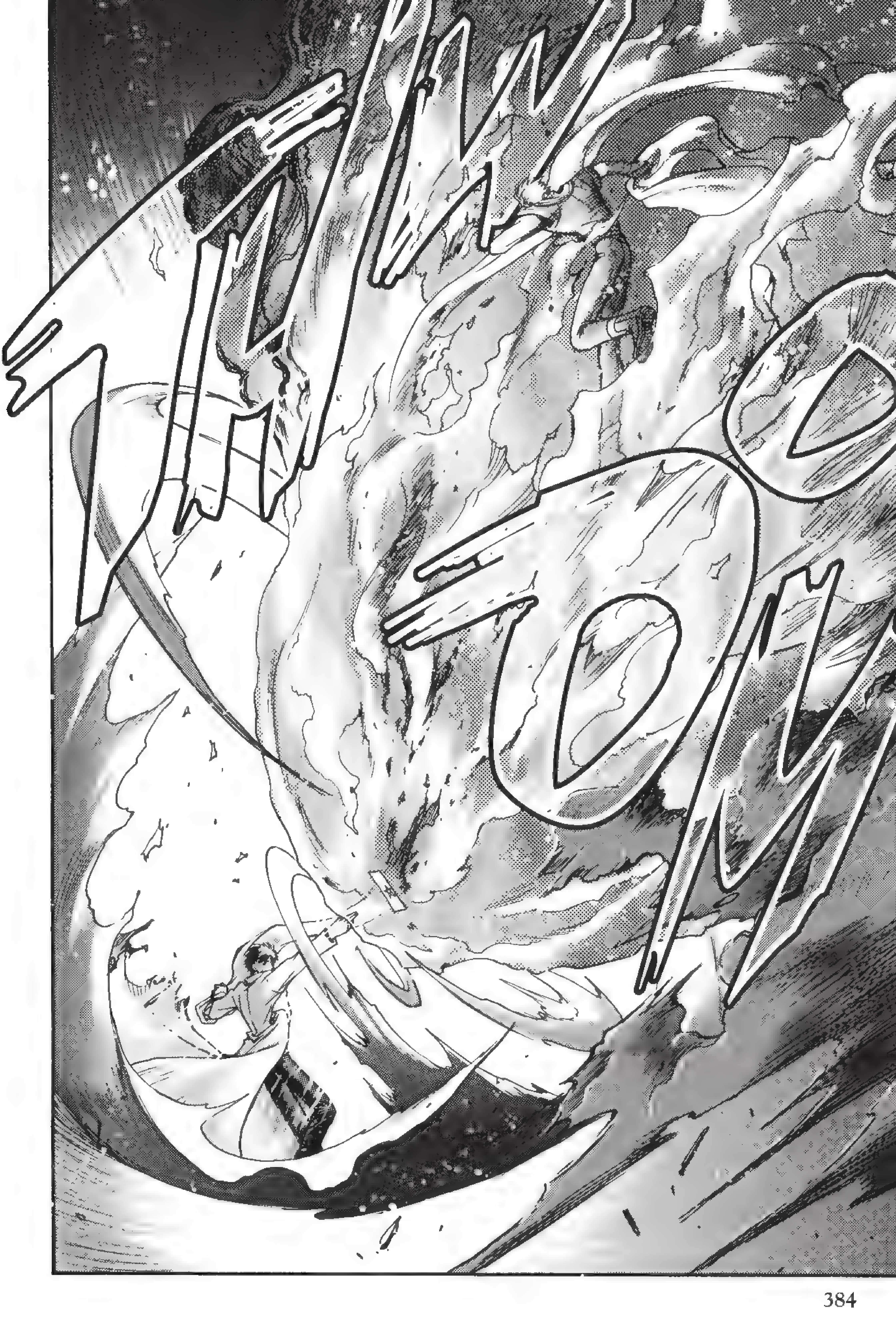

OF COURSE, THE QUICKEST WAY OUT OF A KEKKAI...
...IS OVER ITS CREATOR'S DEAD BODY.
SUBARU!

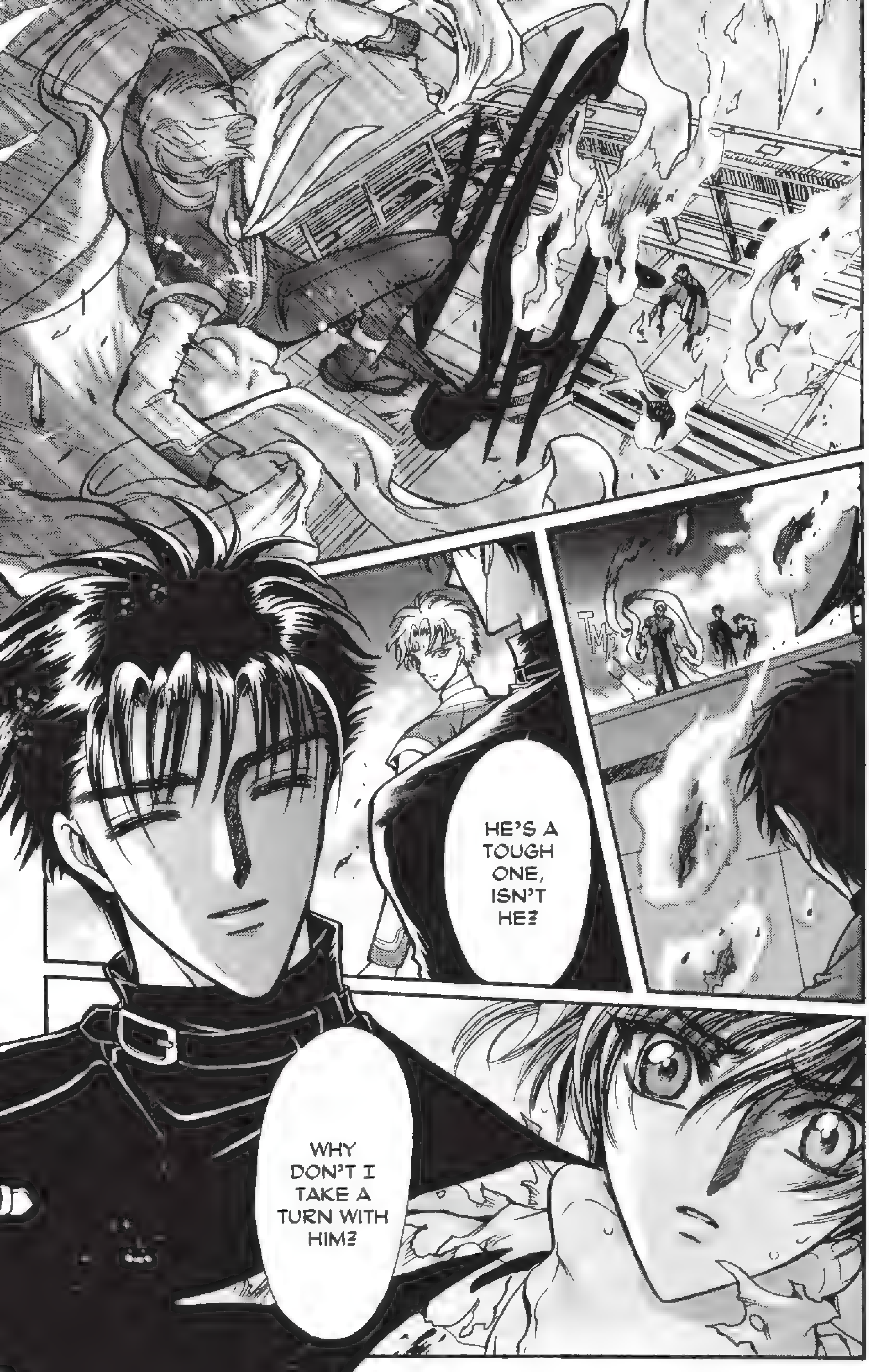


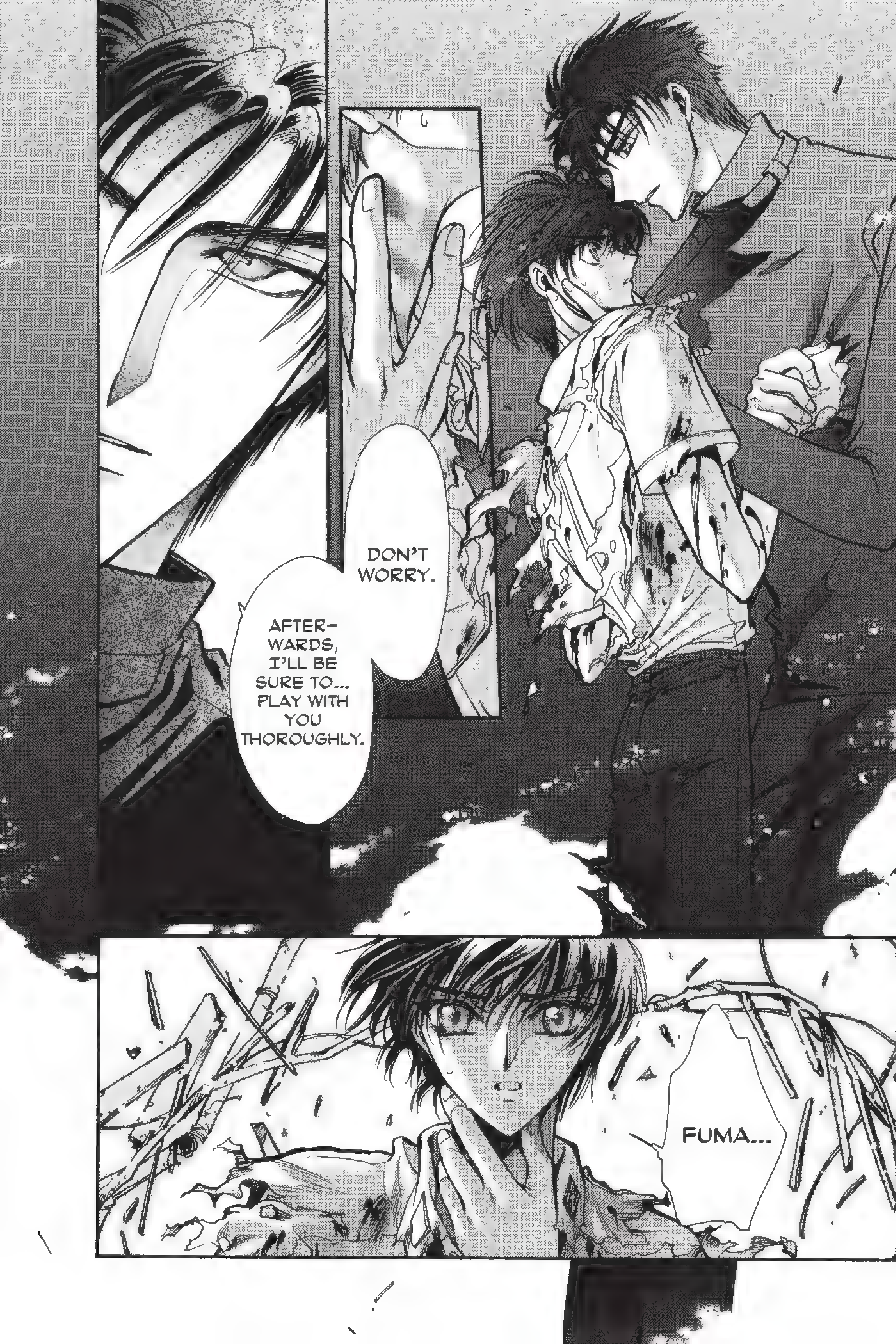

ZWOAAAA
ZRAM
TMP TMP TMPTMP

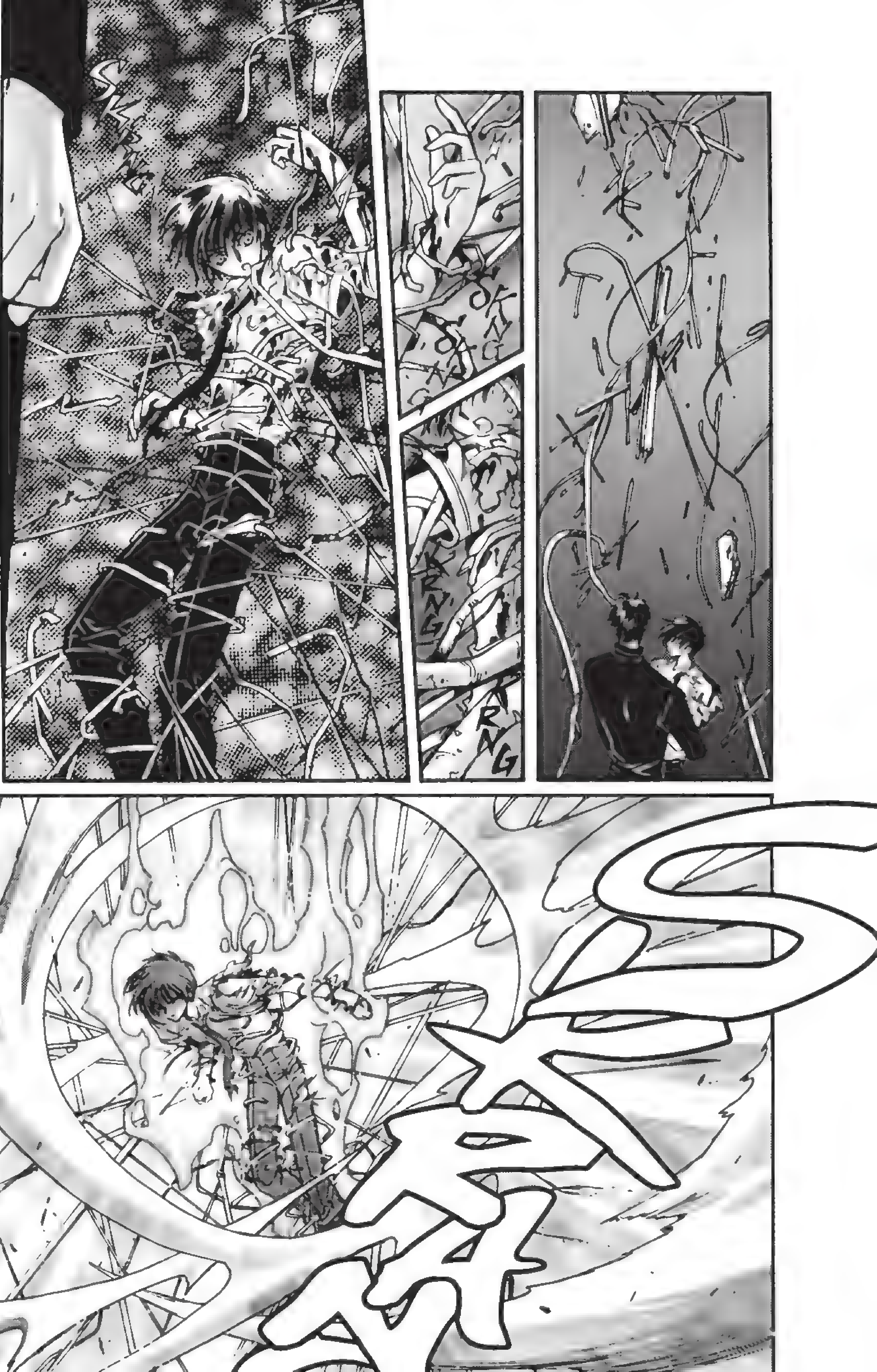

SHA
SUBARU !!

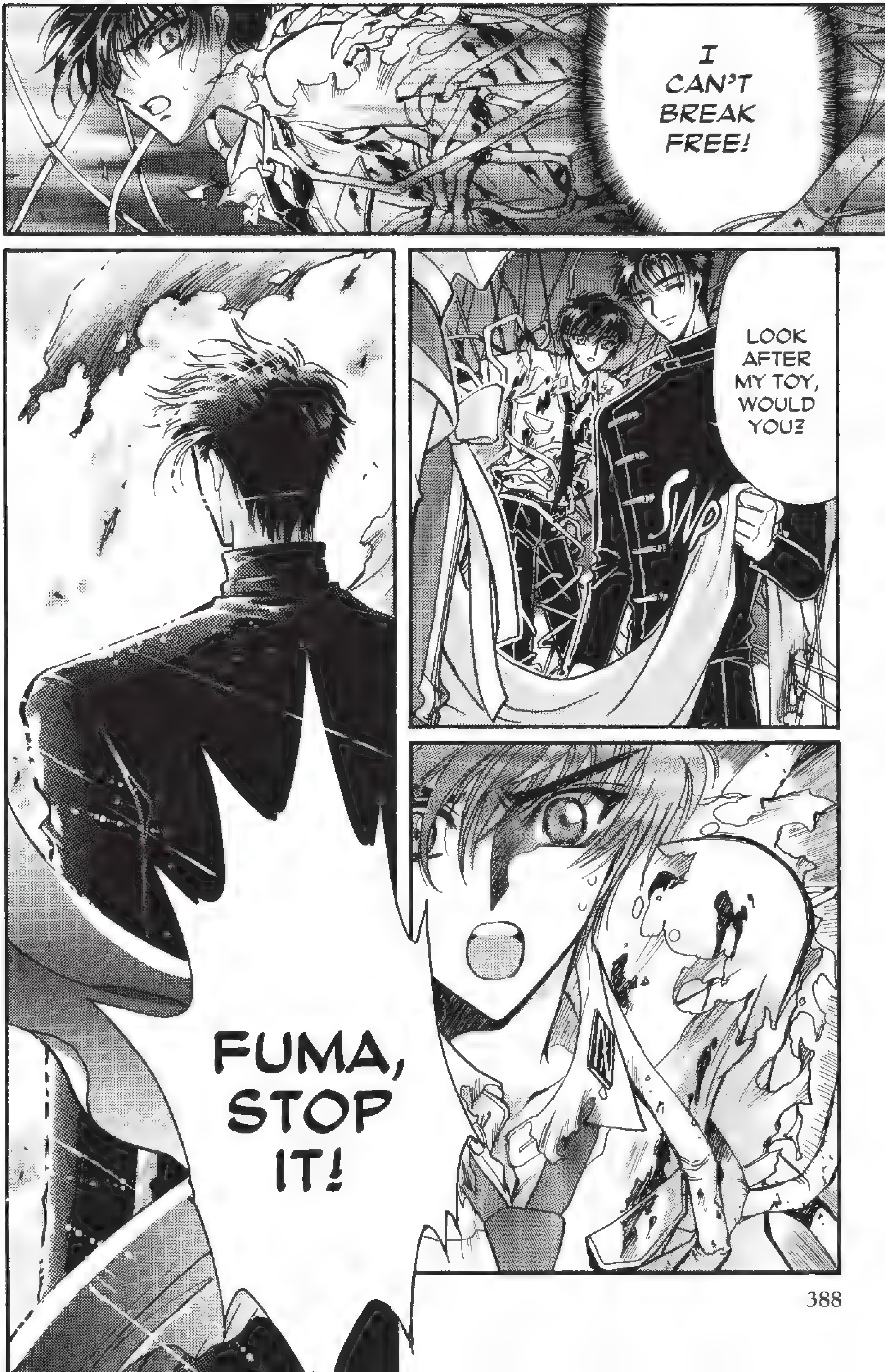

ZWISH
ZWWWM
Fwip

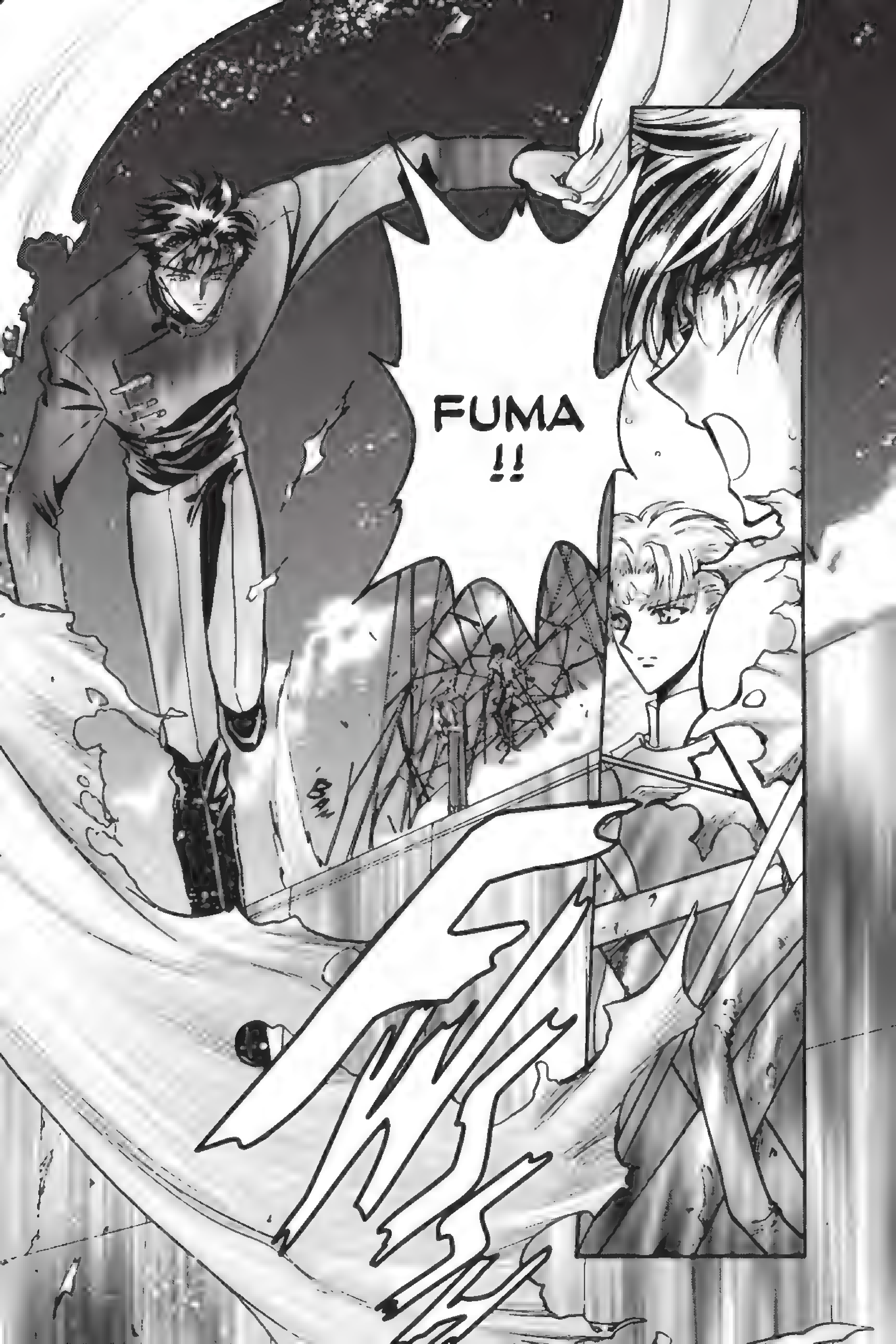

THWOOM

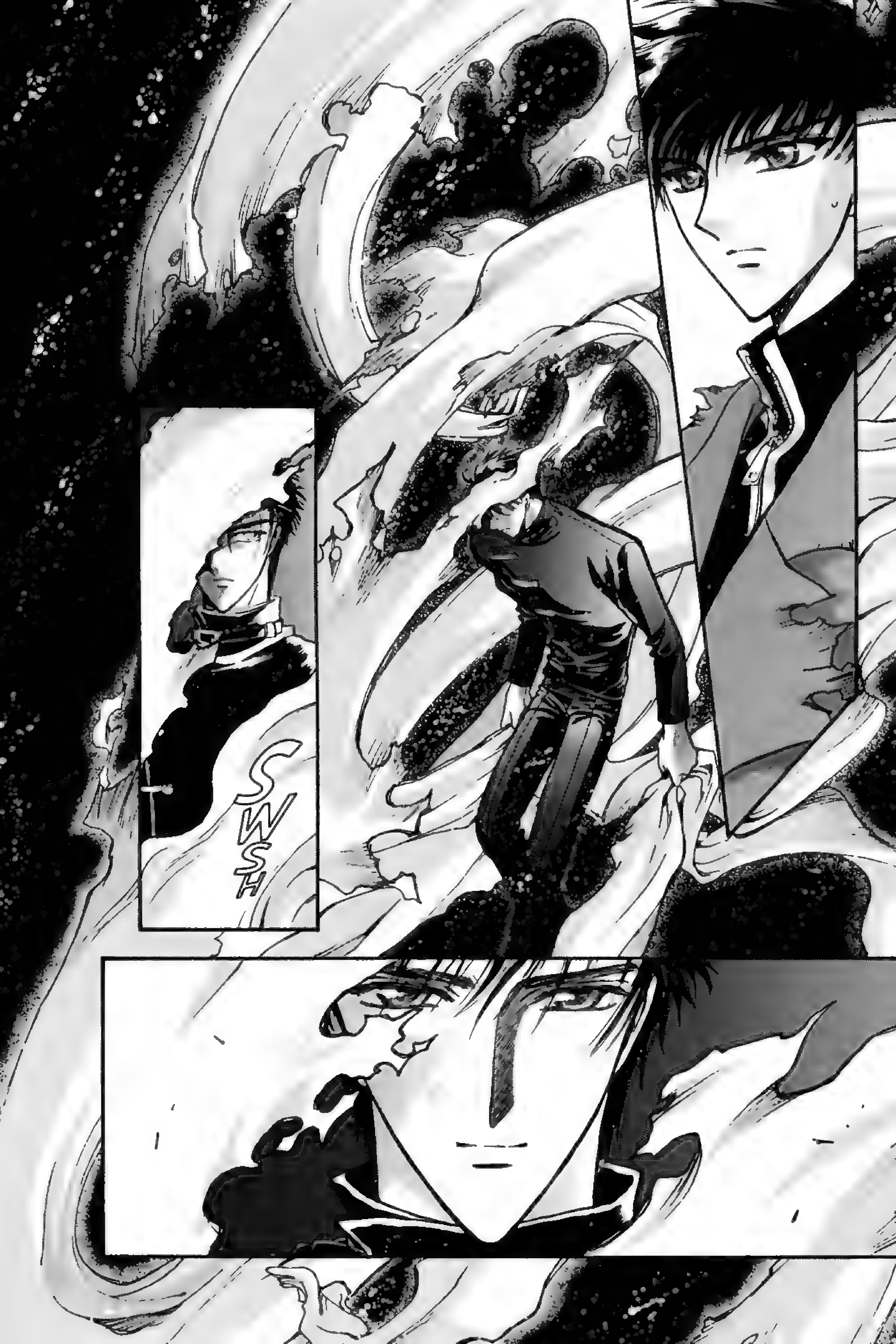

TMP
HE'S A TOUGH ONE, ISN'T HE?
WHY DON'T I TAKE A TURN WITH HIM?

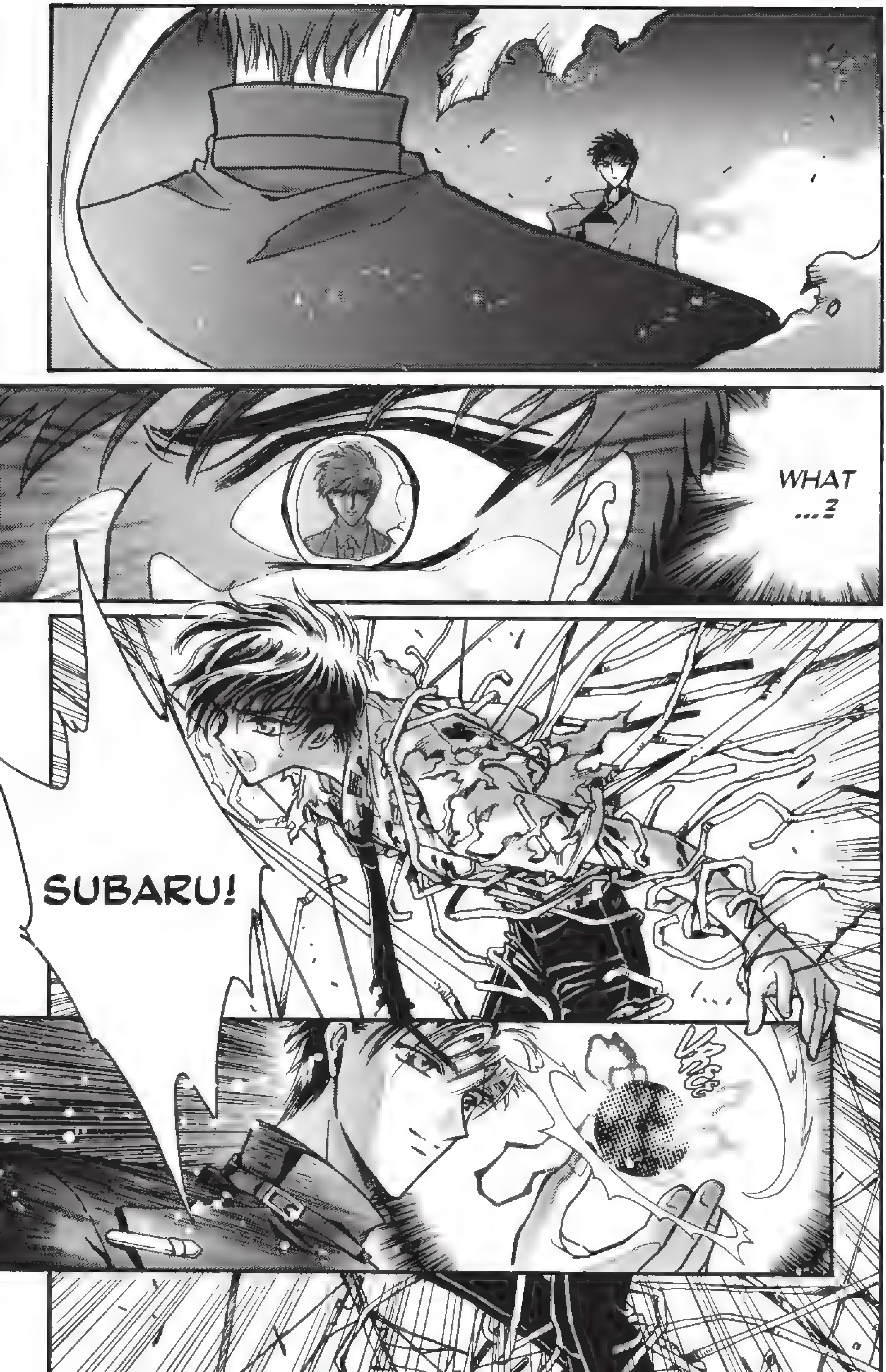

DON'T WORRY.
AFTER-WARDS, I'LL BE SURE TO... PLAY WITH YOU THOROUGHLY.
FUMA...


SKRNG
KRNG
RNG

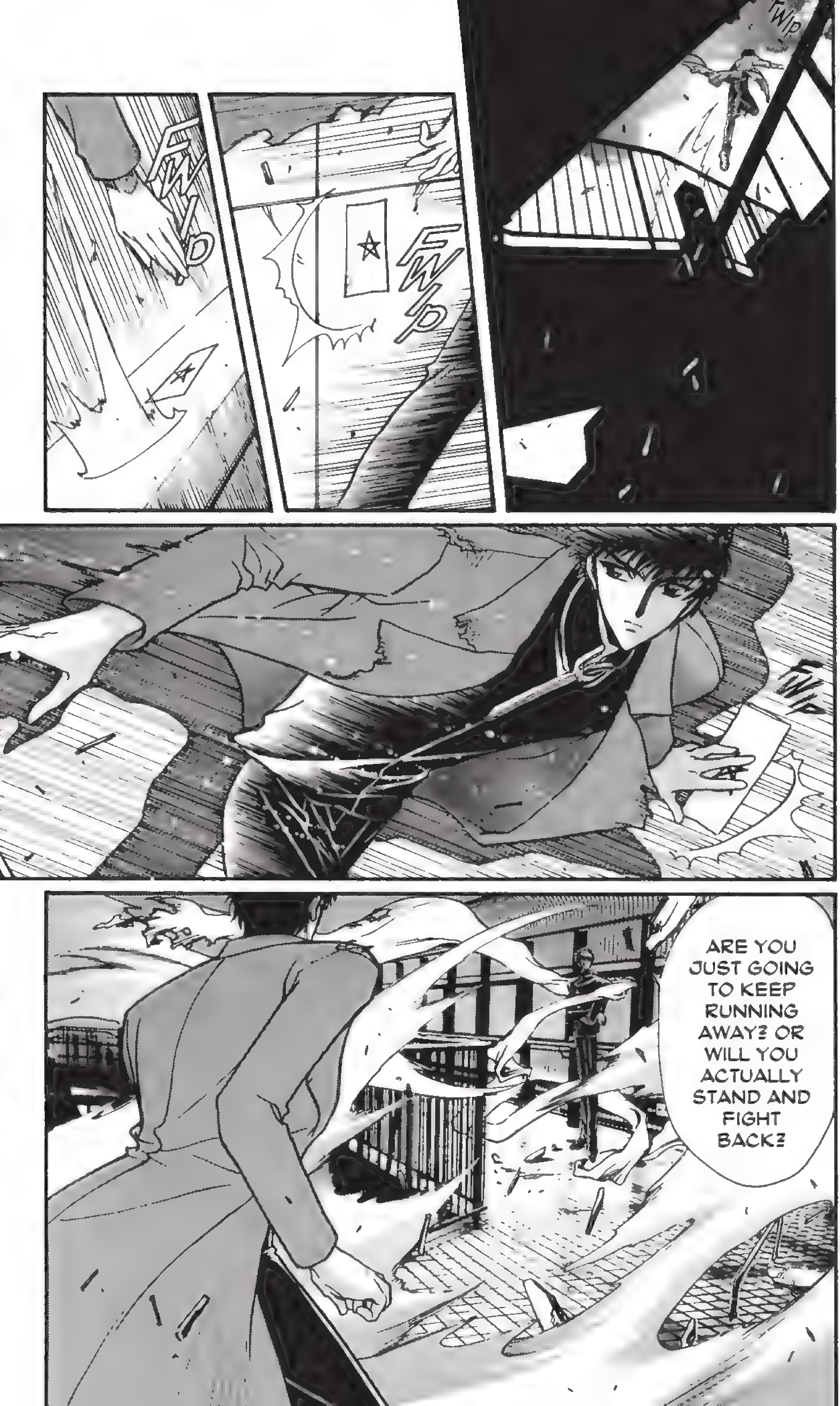

I CAN'T BREAK FREE!
LOOK AFTER MY TOY, WOULD YOU?
FUMA, STOP IT!

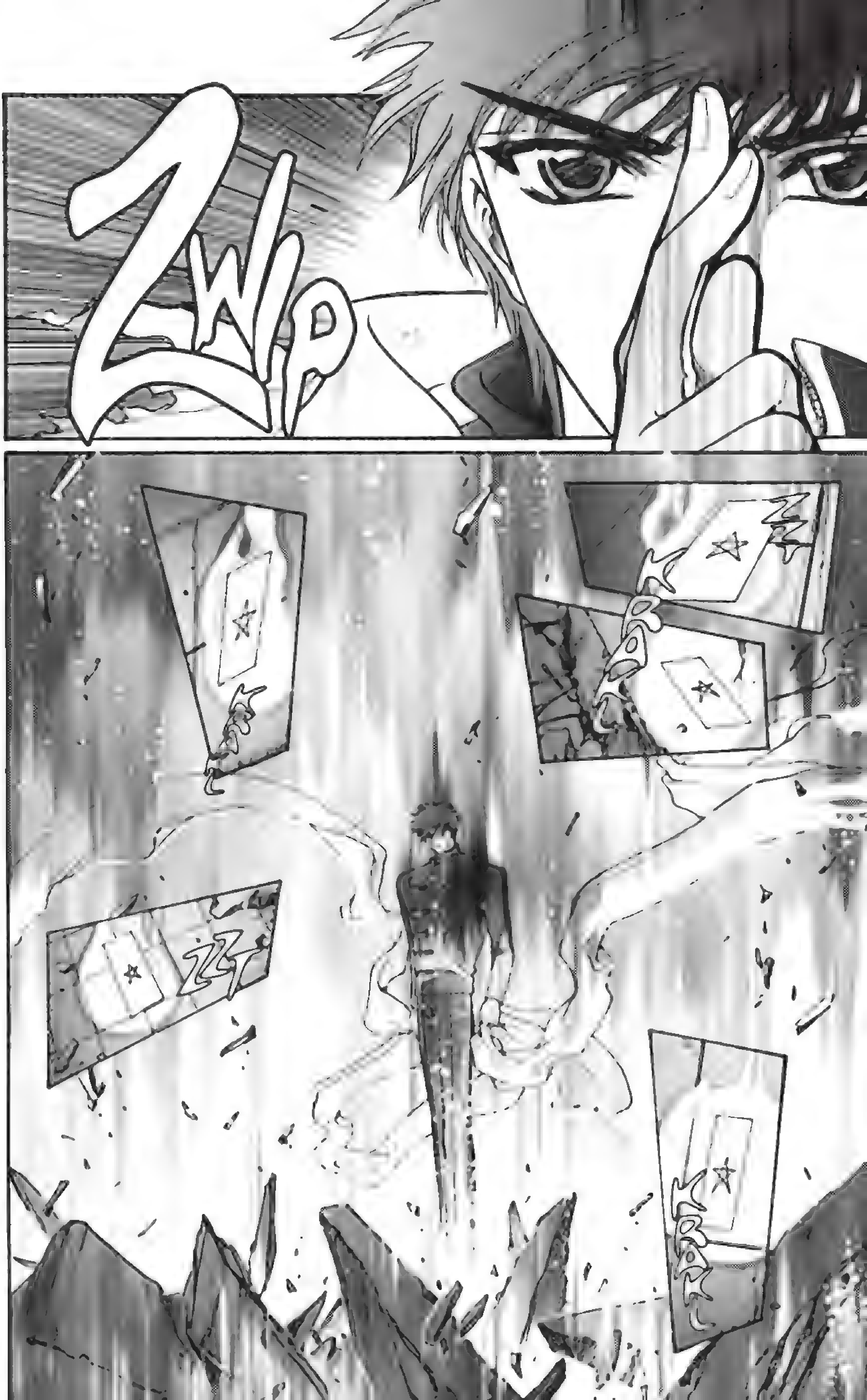

FUMA !!
BAM

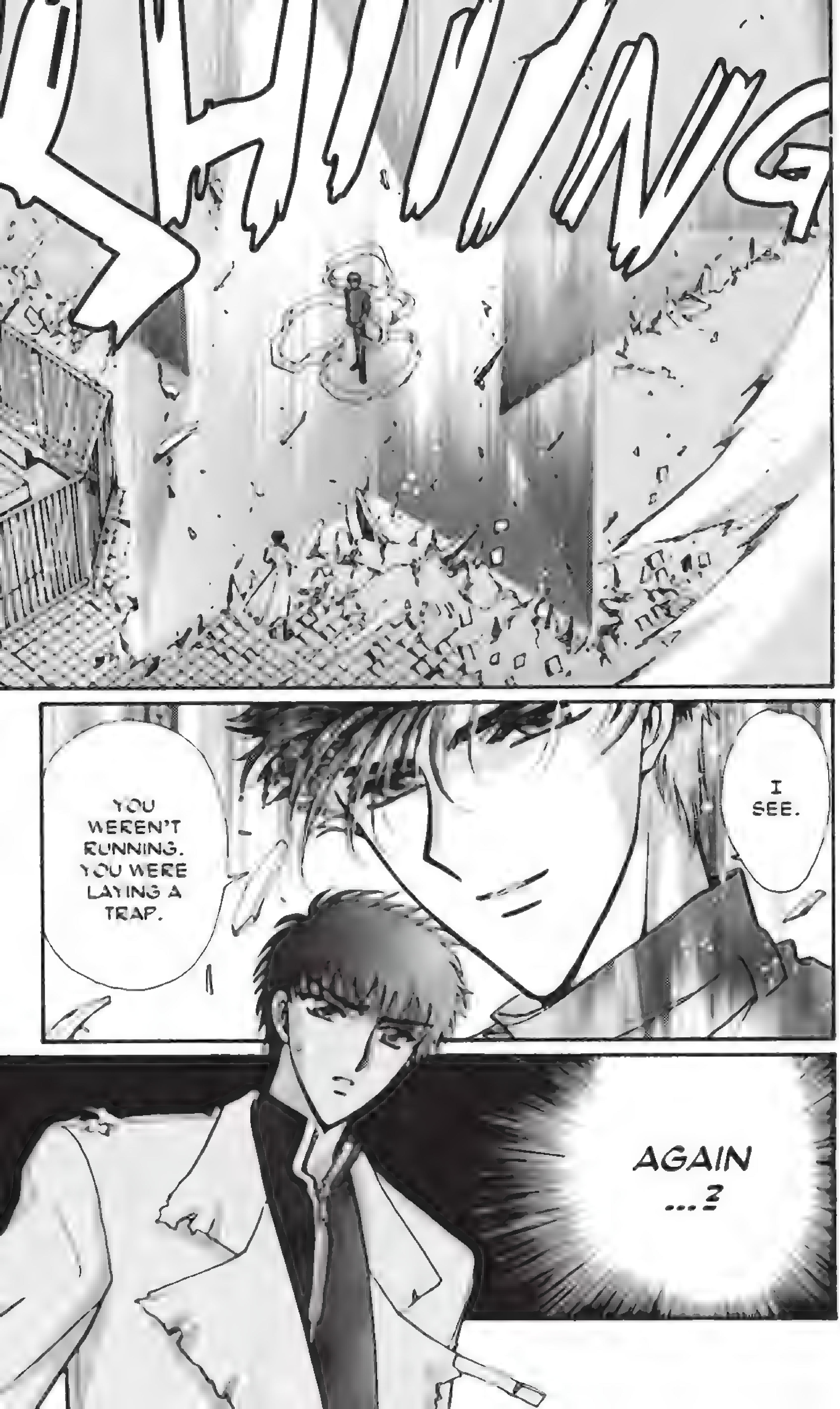

SWSH

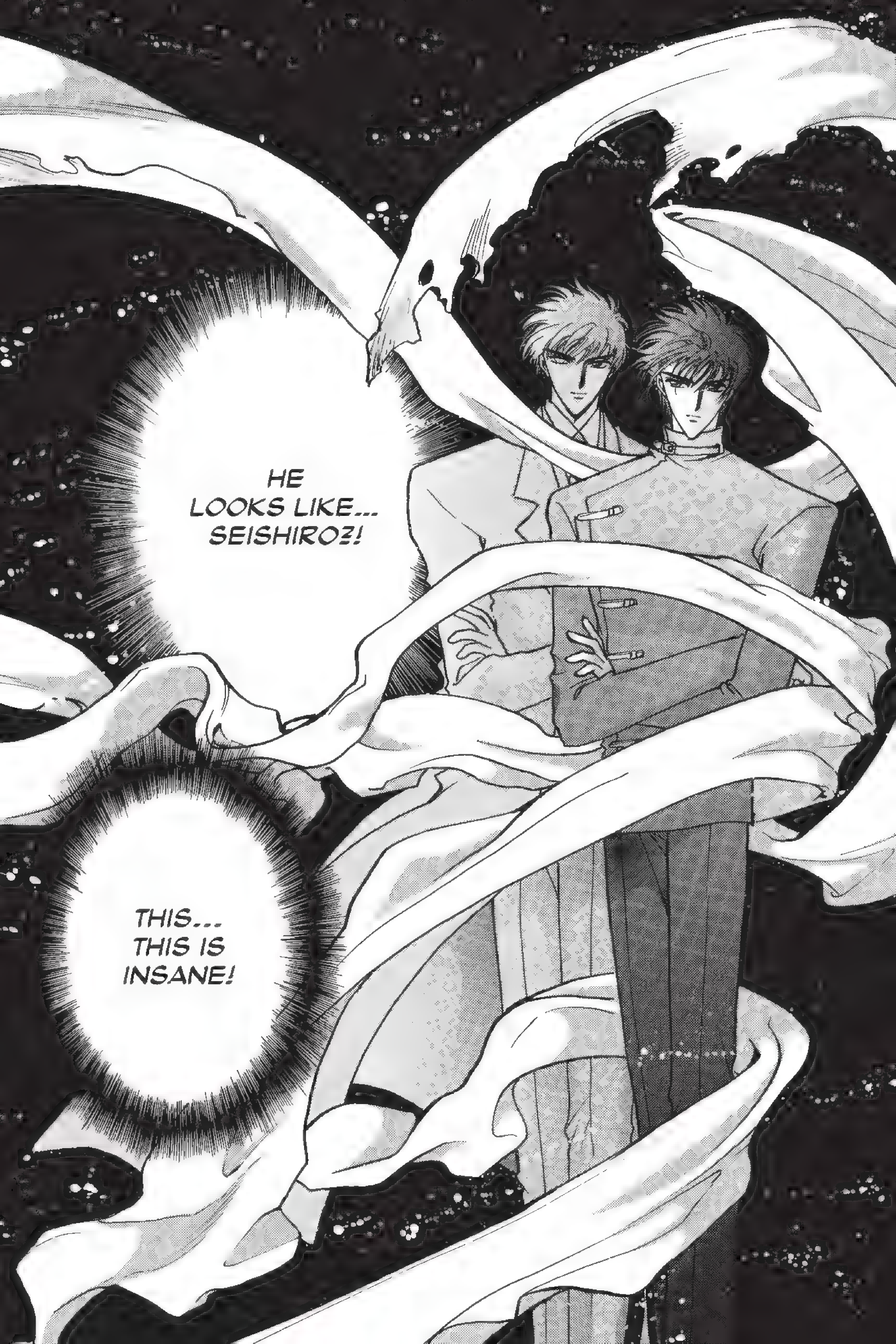

WHAT ...?
SUBARU!
...

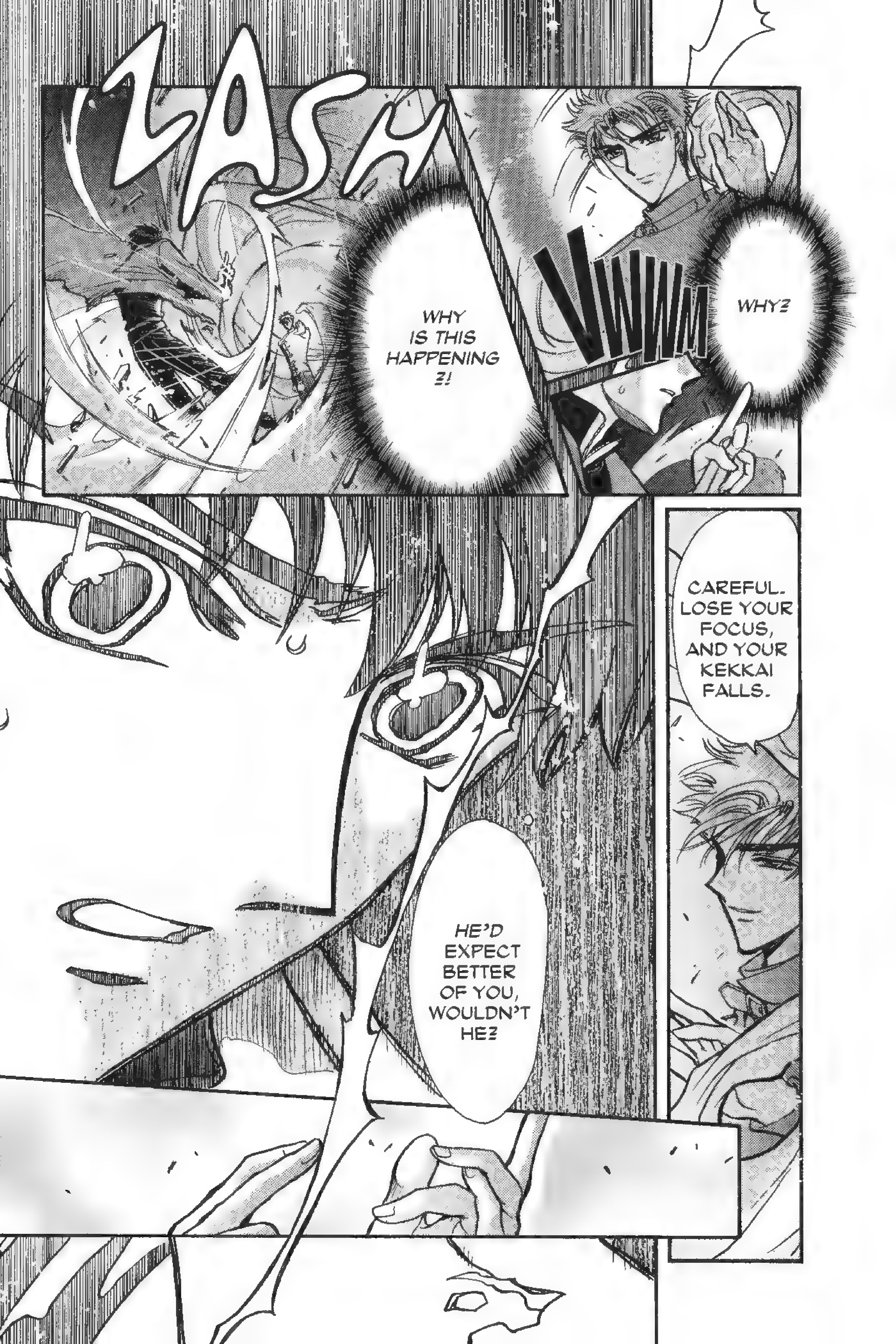
VREEN
DASH
BAMBAMBAM
KRAM

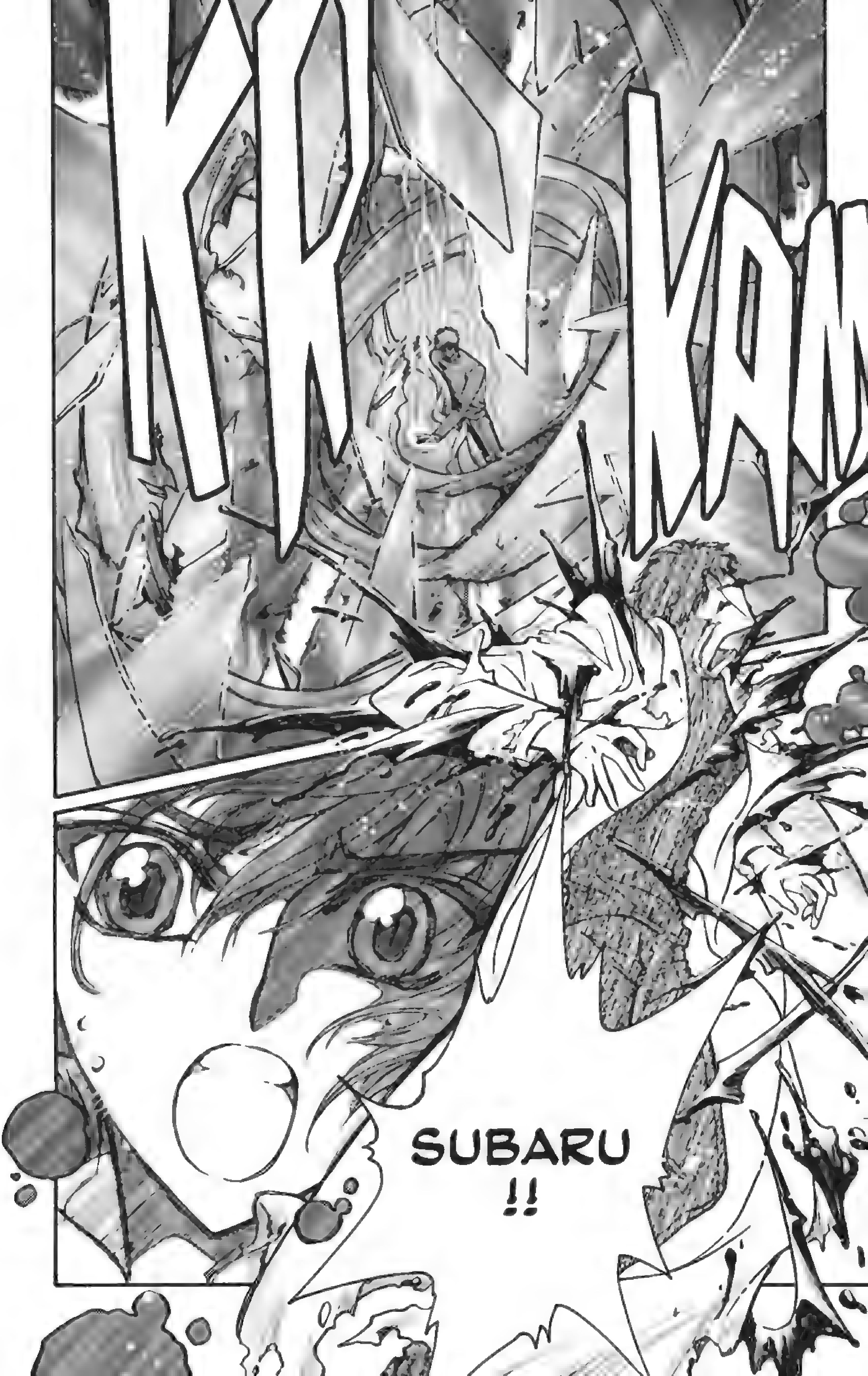

FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
ARE YOU JUST GOING TO KEEP RUNNING AWAY? OR WILL YOU ACTUALLY STAND AND FIGHT BACK?

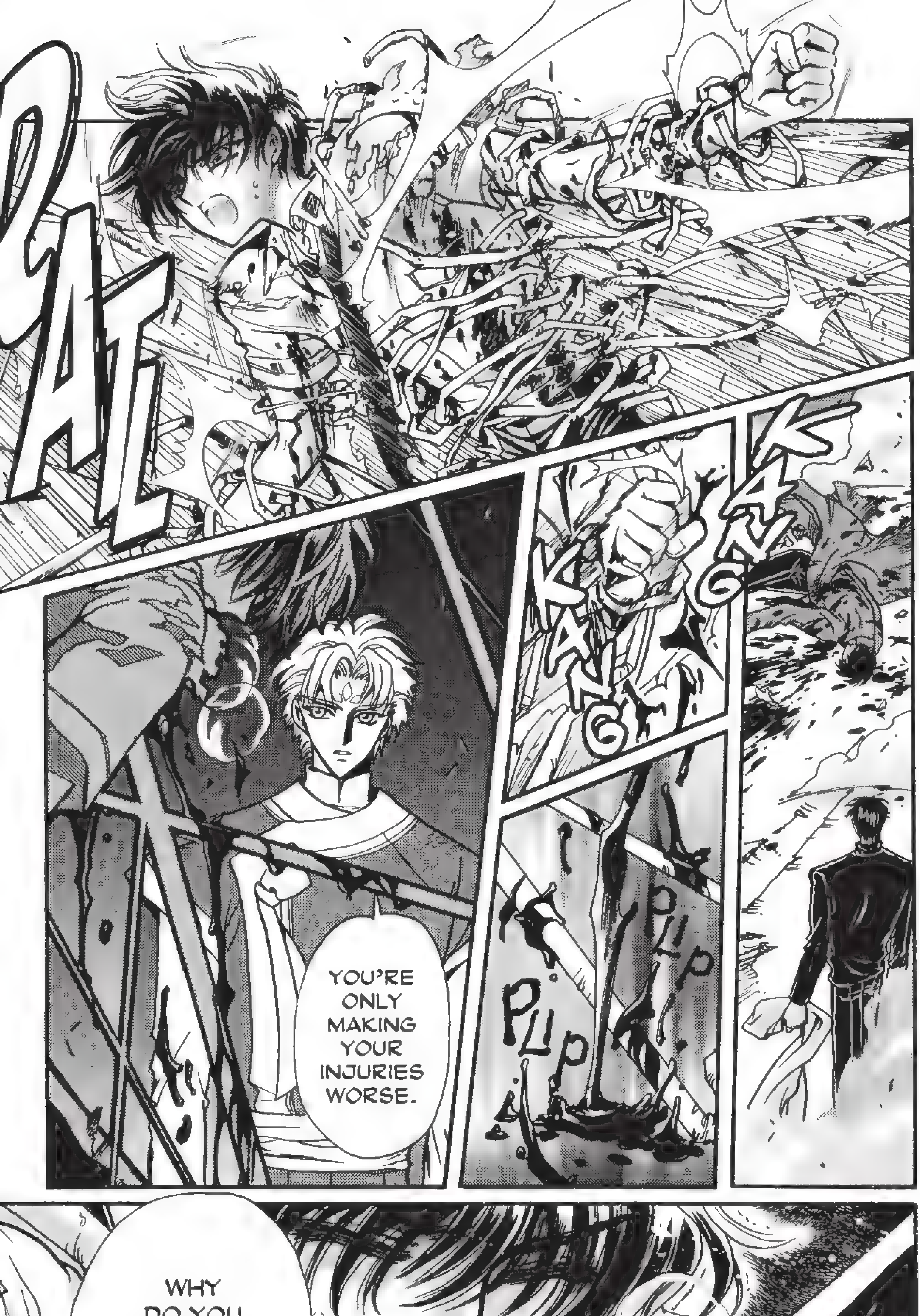

ZWIP
ZZT
ZZT

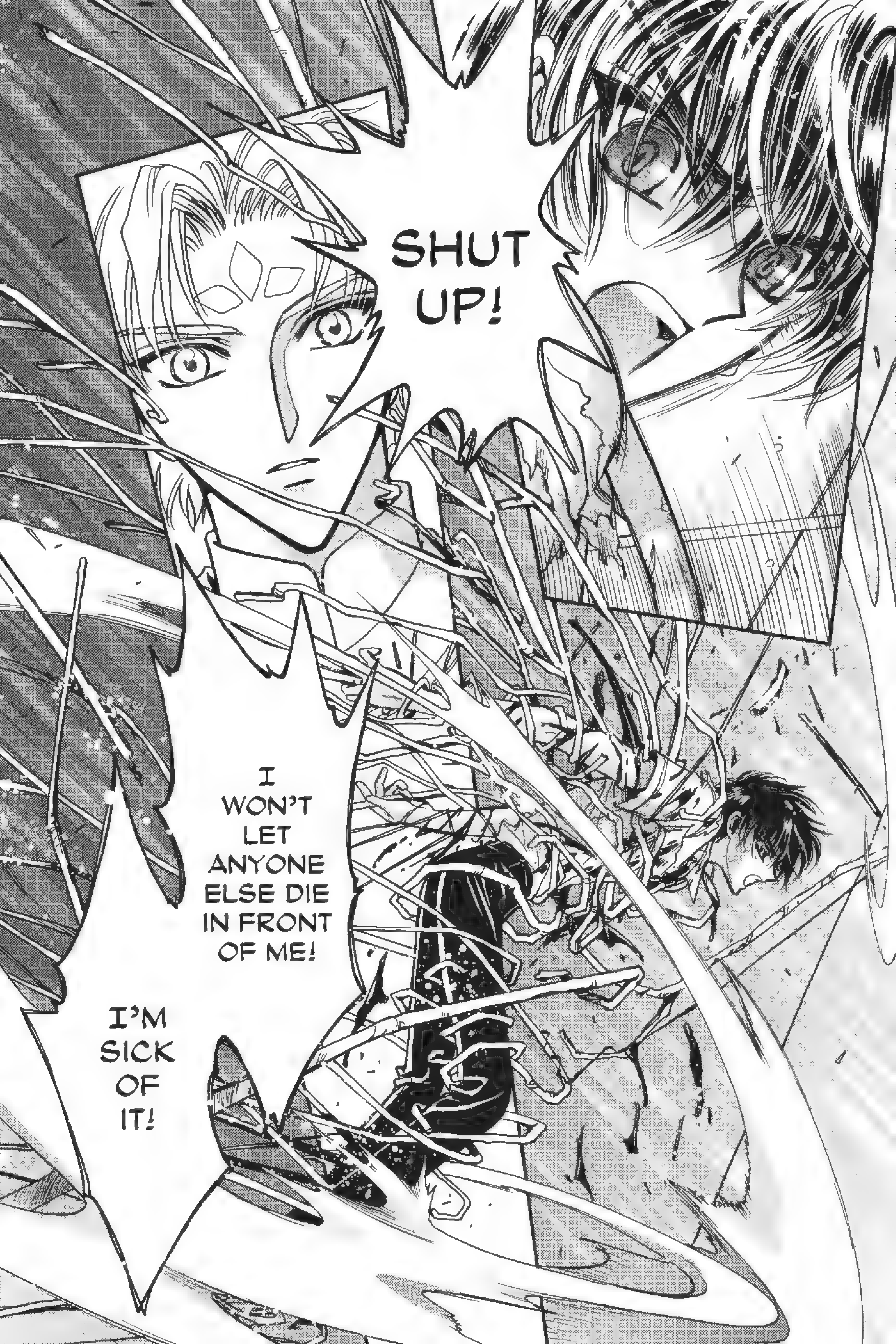

HIING
I SEE.
YOU WEREN'T RUNNING. YOU WERE LAYING A TRAP.
AGAIN ...?

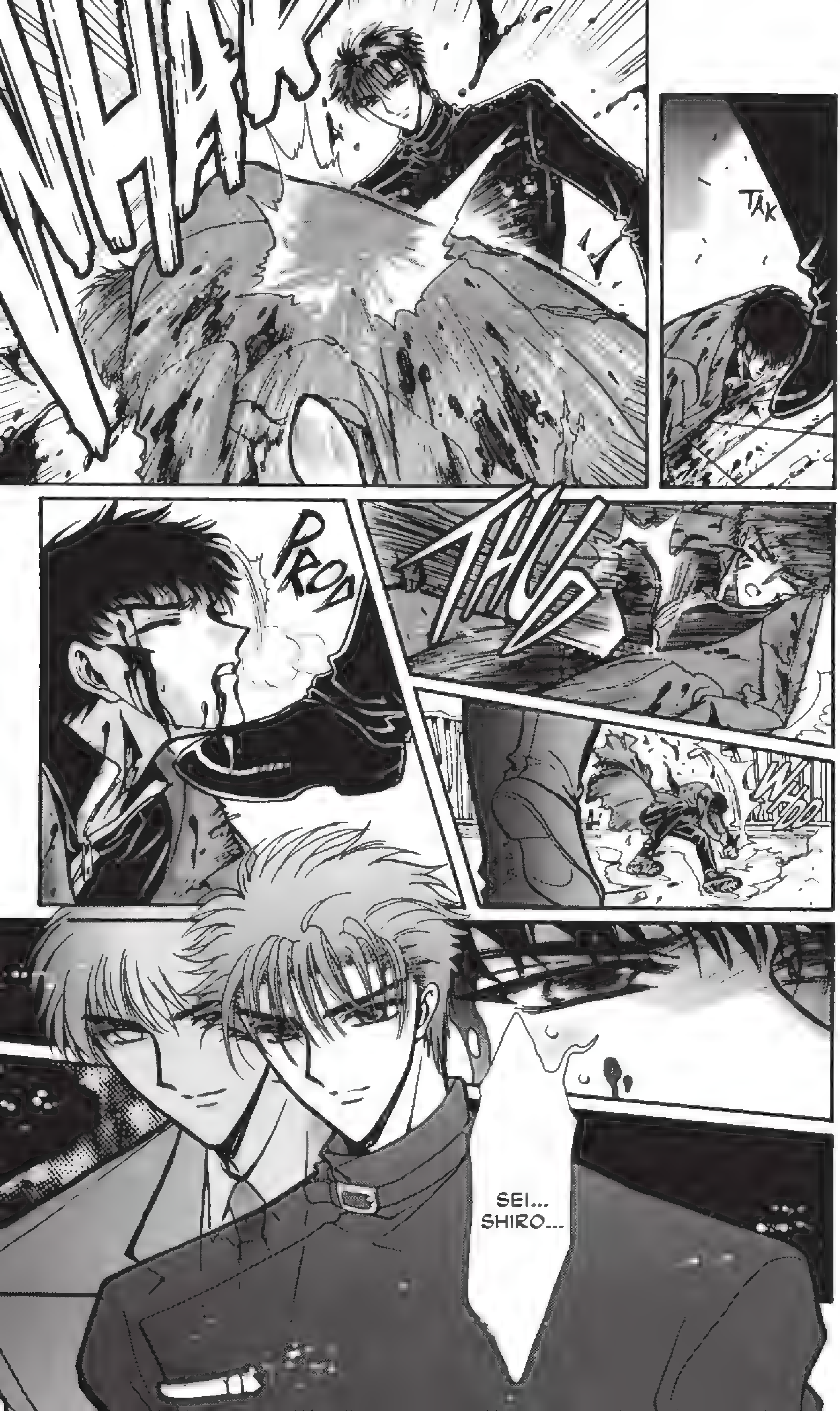

HE LOOKS LIKE... SEISHIRO?!
THIS... THIS IS INSANE!

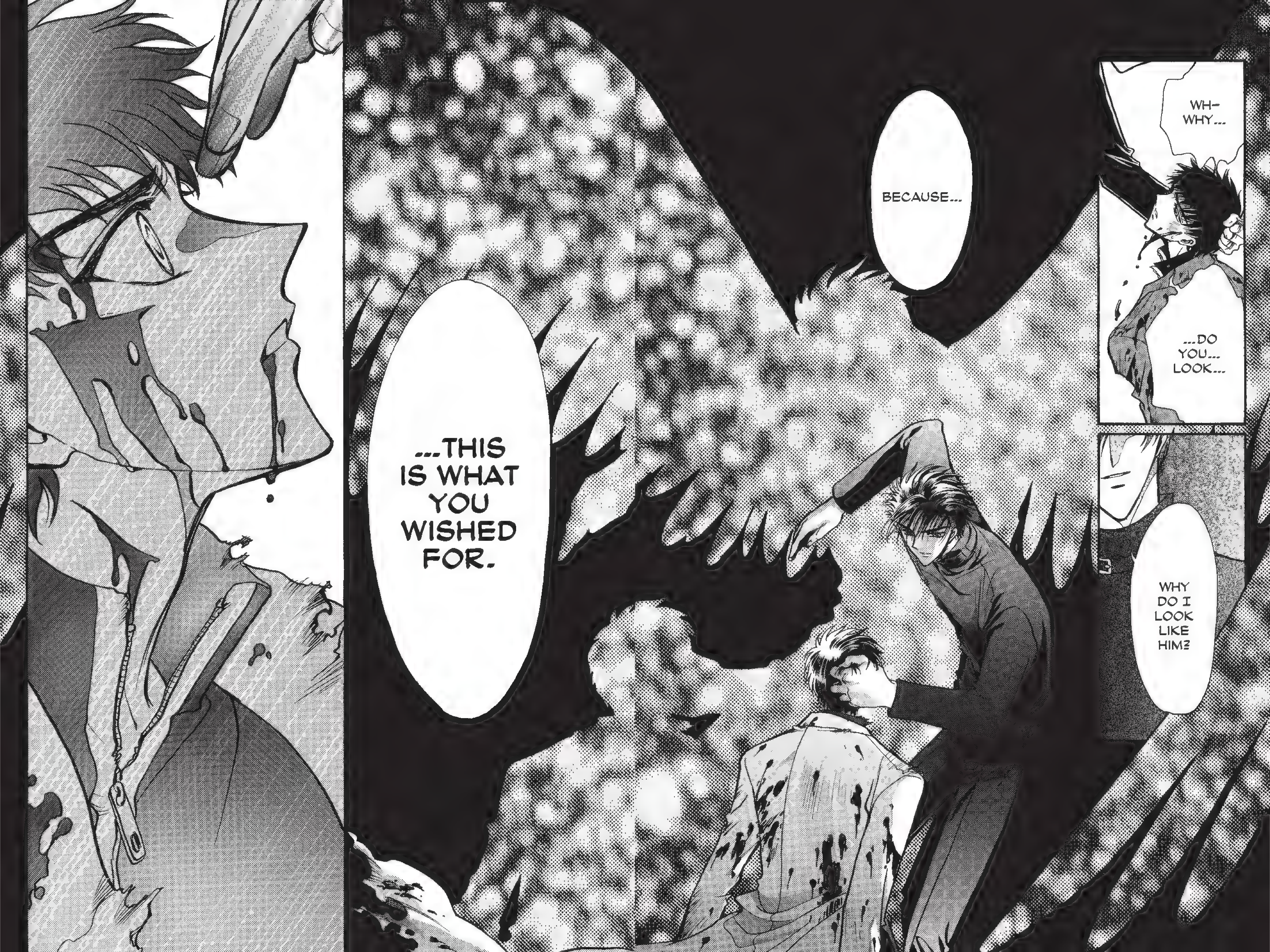

WHY?
VWWM
ZASH
WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?!
CAREFUL. LOSE YOUR FOCUS, AND YOUR KEKKAI FALLS.
HE'D EXPECT BETTER OF YOU, WOULDN'T HE?

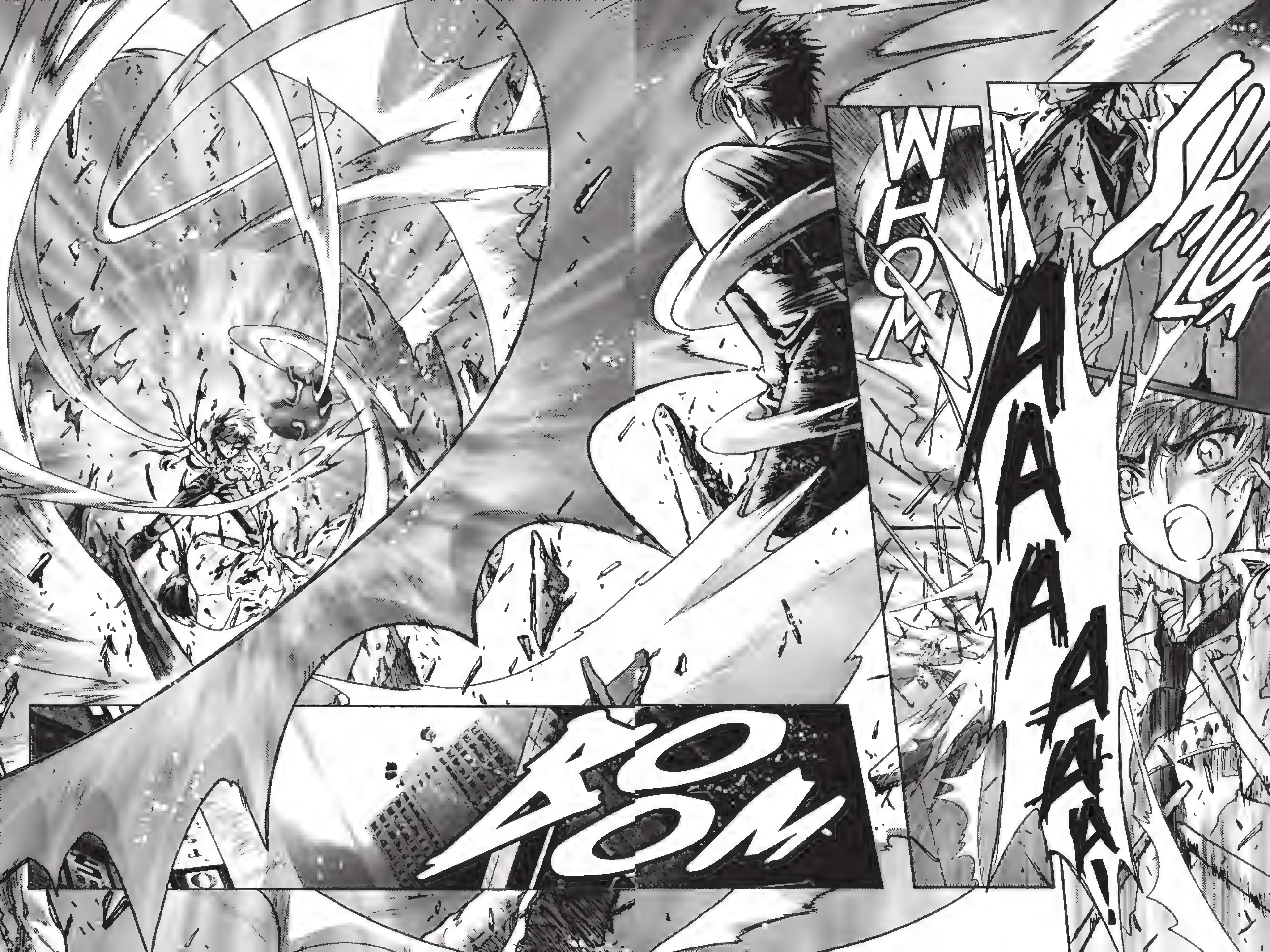

SUBARU
!!

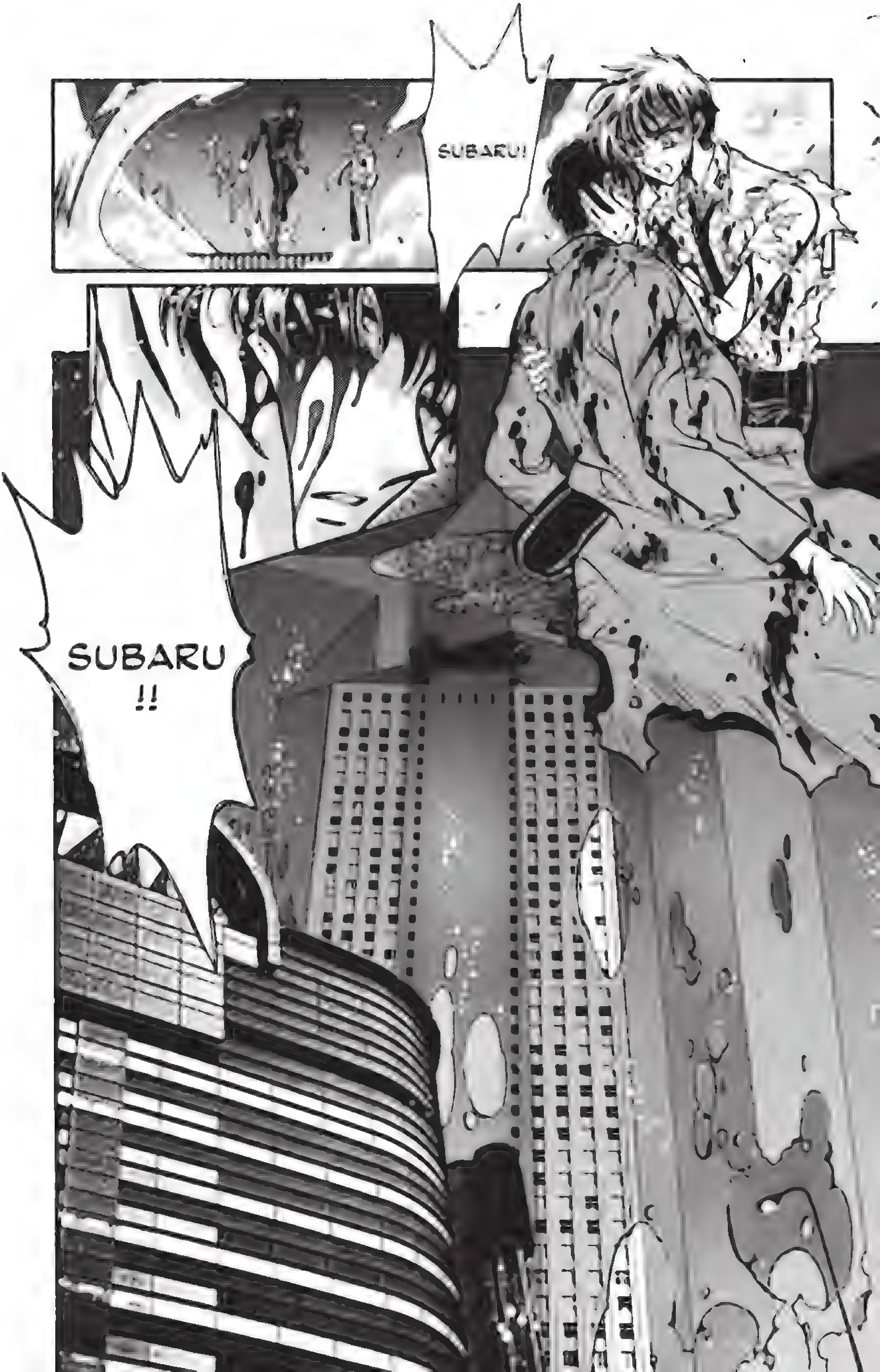

KANG
KANG
PLIP
PLIP
YOU'RE ONLY MAKING YOUR INJURIES WORSE.
WHY DO YOU STRUGGLE WHEN IT'S POINTLESS?

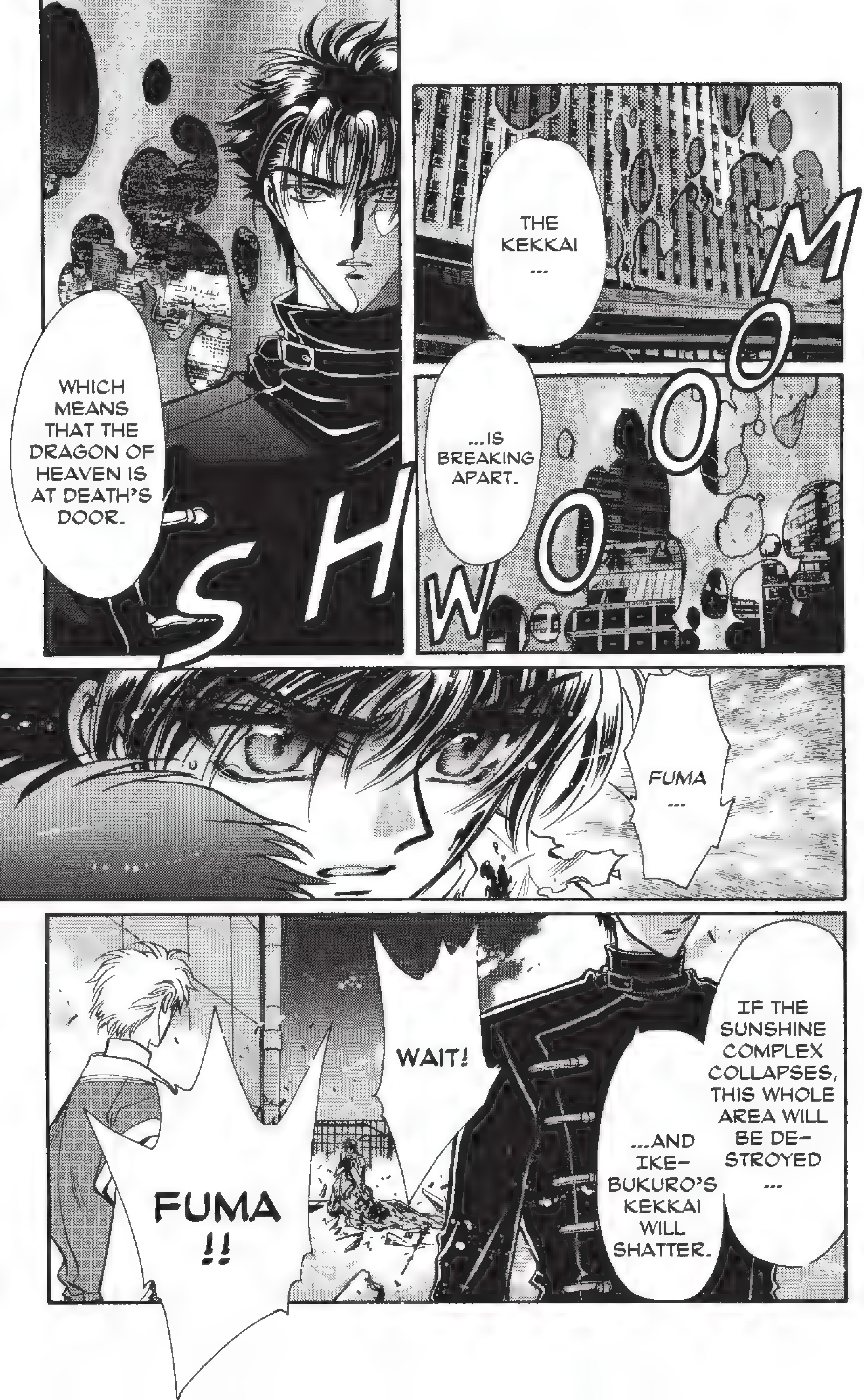

SHUT UP!
I WON'T LET ANYONE ELSE DIE IN FRONT OF ME!
I'M SICK OF IT!

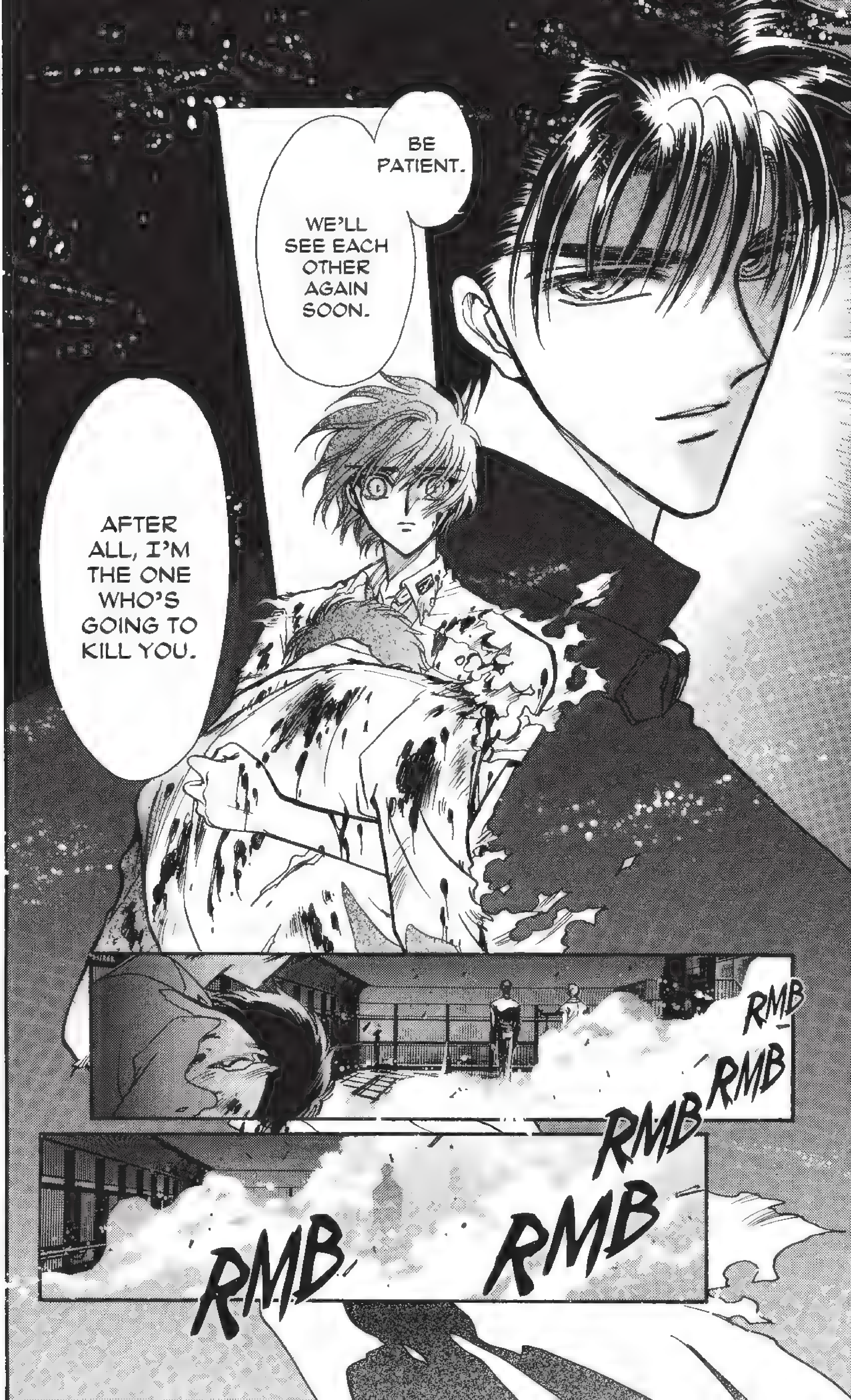

WHAK
TAK
PROD
THUD
WHOO
SEI... SHIRO...

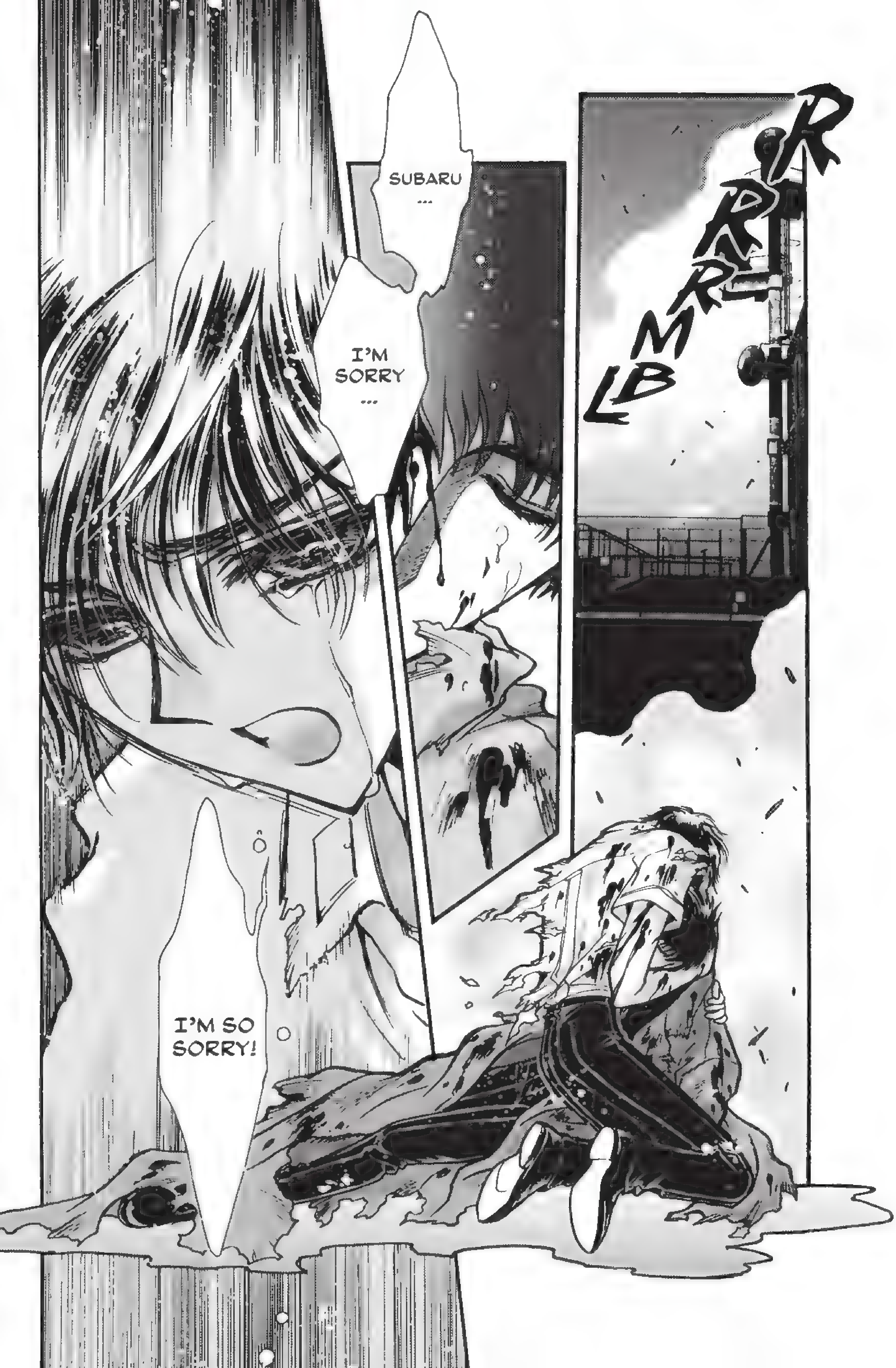

WH- WHY...
...DO YOU... LOOK...
WHY DO I LOOK LIKE HIM?
BECAUSE...
...THIS IS WHAT YOU WISHED FOR.

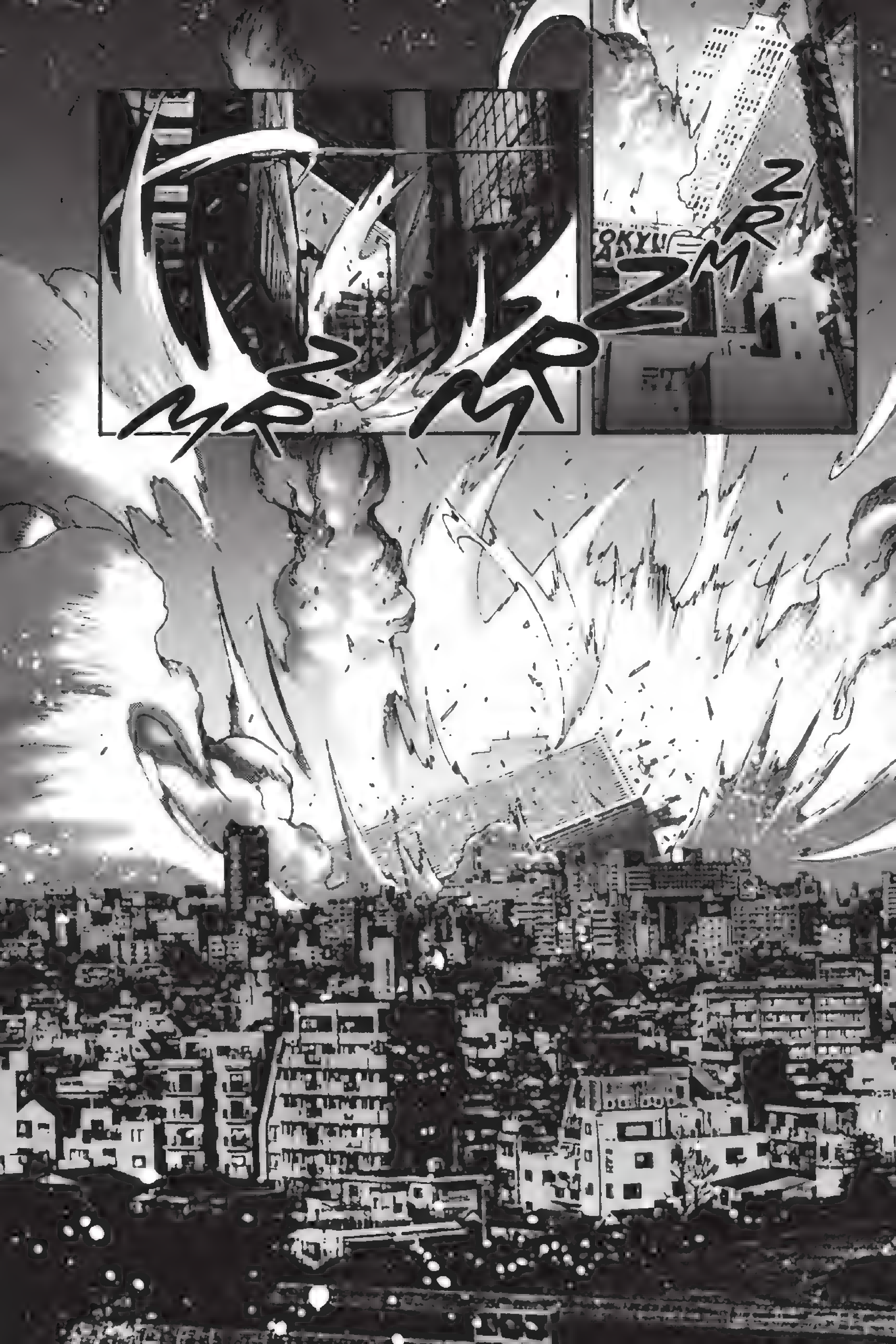

WHOM
AAAAAAA!
BOOM

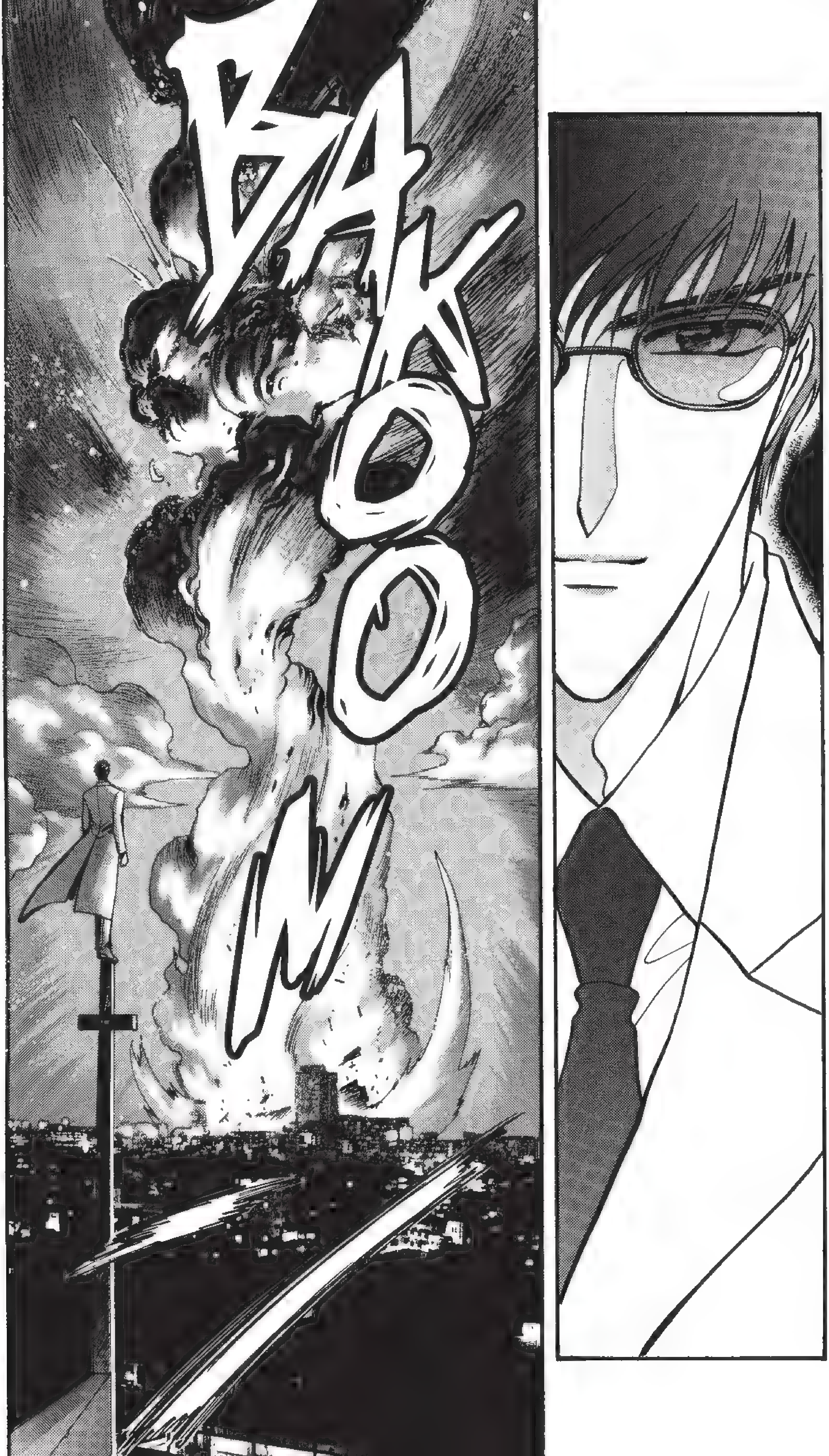

SUBARU!
SUBARU !!


THE KEKKAI ...
...IS BREAKING APART.
SHWOOOOM
WHICH MEANS THAT THE DRAGON OF HEAVEN IS AT DEATH'S DOOR.
FUMA ...
IF THE SUNSHINE COMPLEX COLLAPSES, THIS WHOLE AREA WILL BE DESTROYED ...
...AND IKEBUKURO'S KEKKAI WILL SHATTER.
WAIT!
FUMA !!

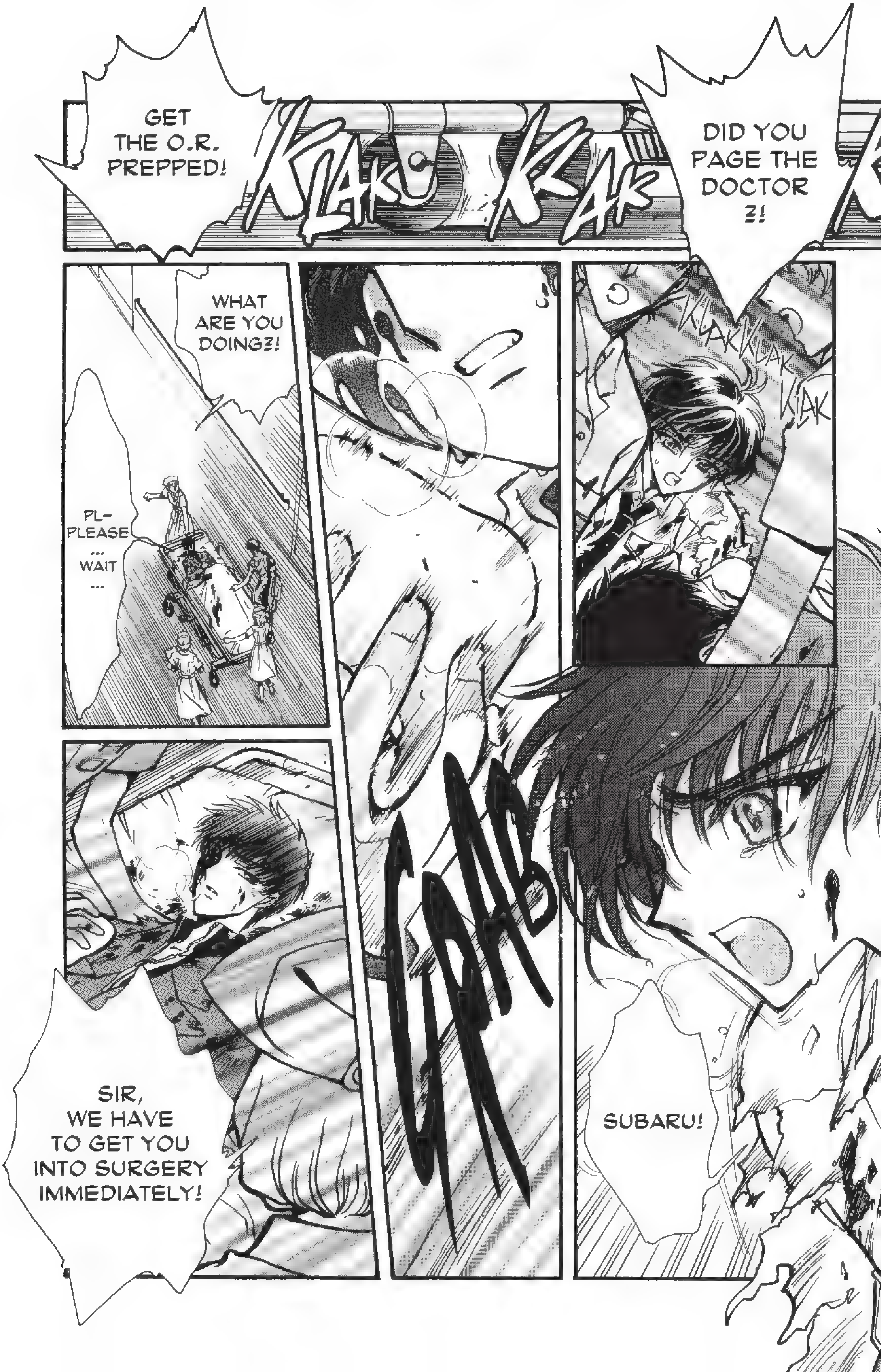

BE PATIENT.
WE'LL SEE EACH OTHER AGAIN SOON.
AFTER ALL, I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO KILL YOU.
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB
RMB

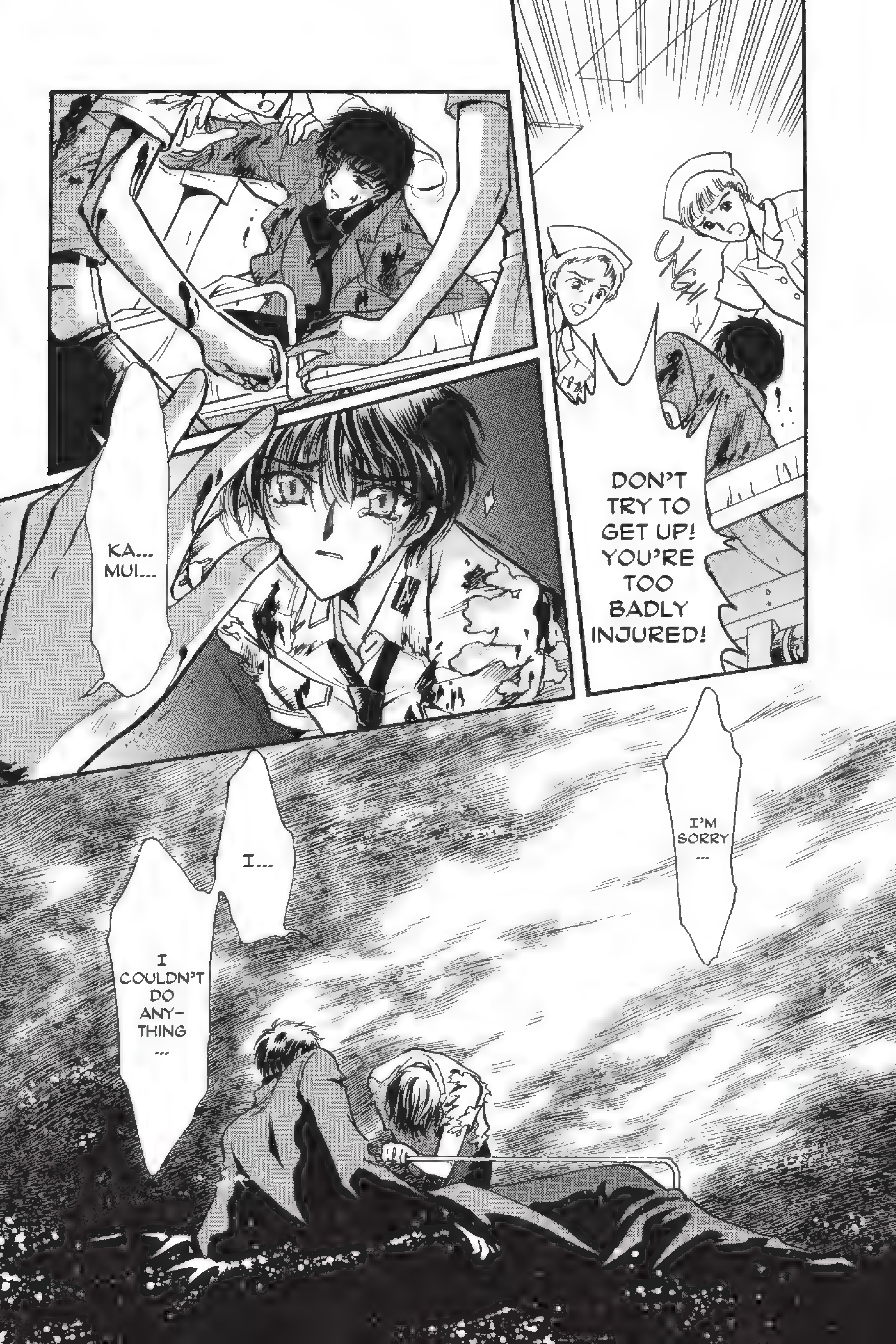

RRRMBL
SUBARU ...
I'M SORRY ...
I'M SO SORRY!

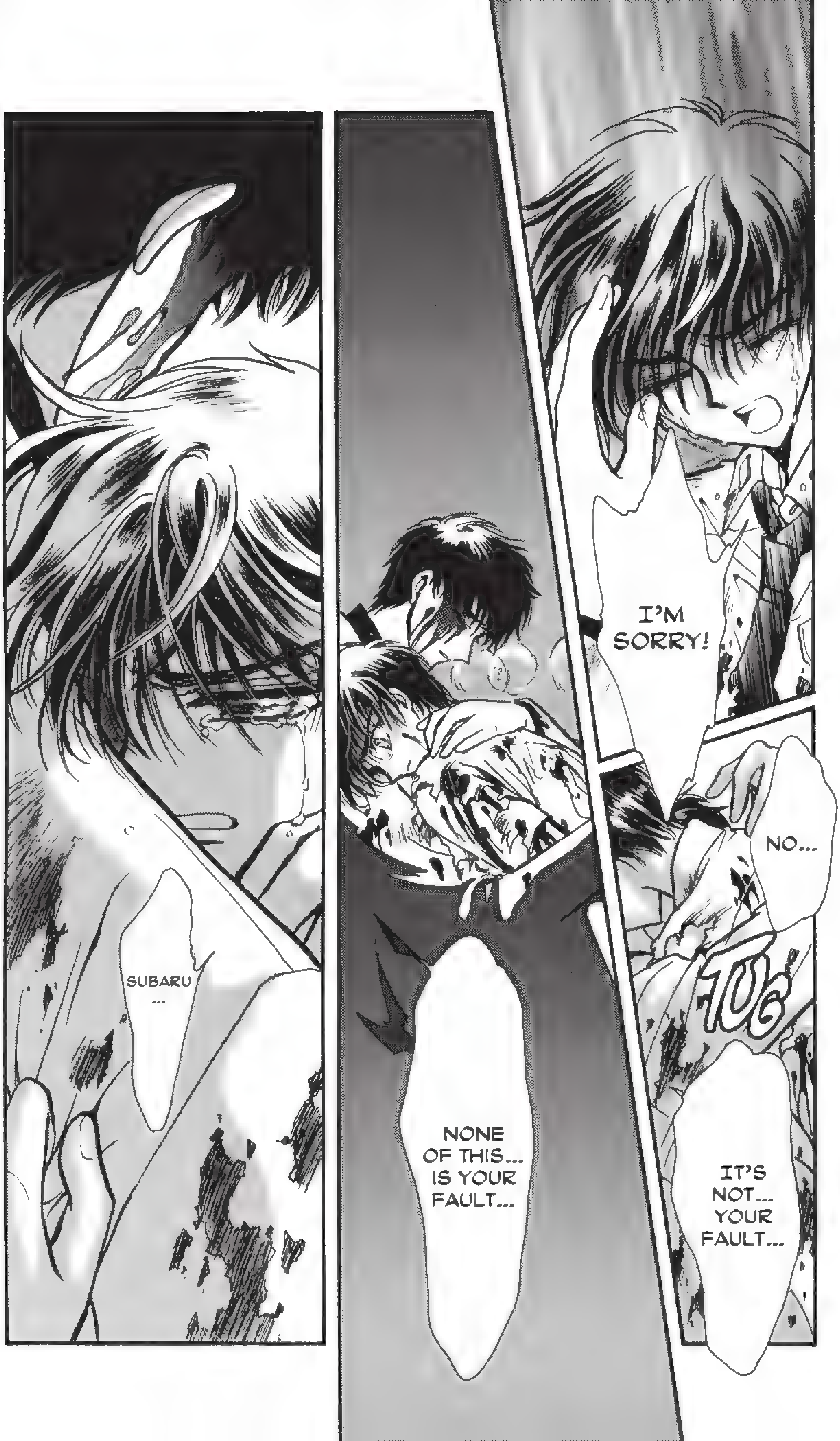

OKYU
ZMRZ
MRZMR

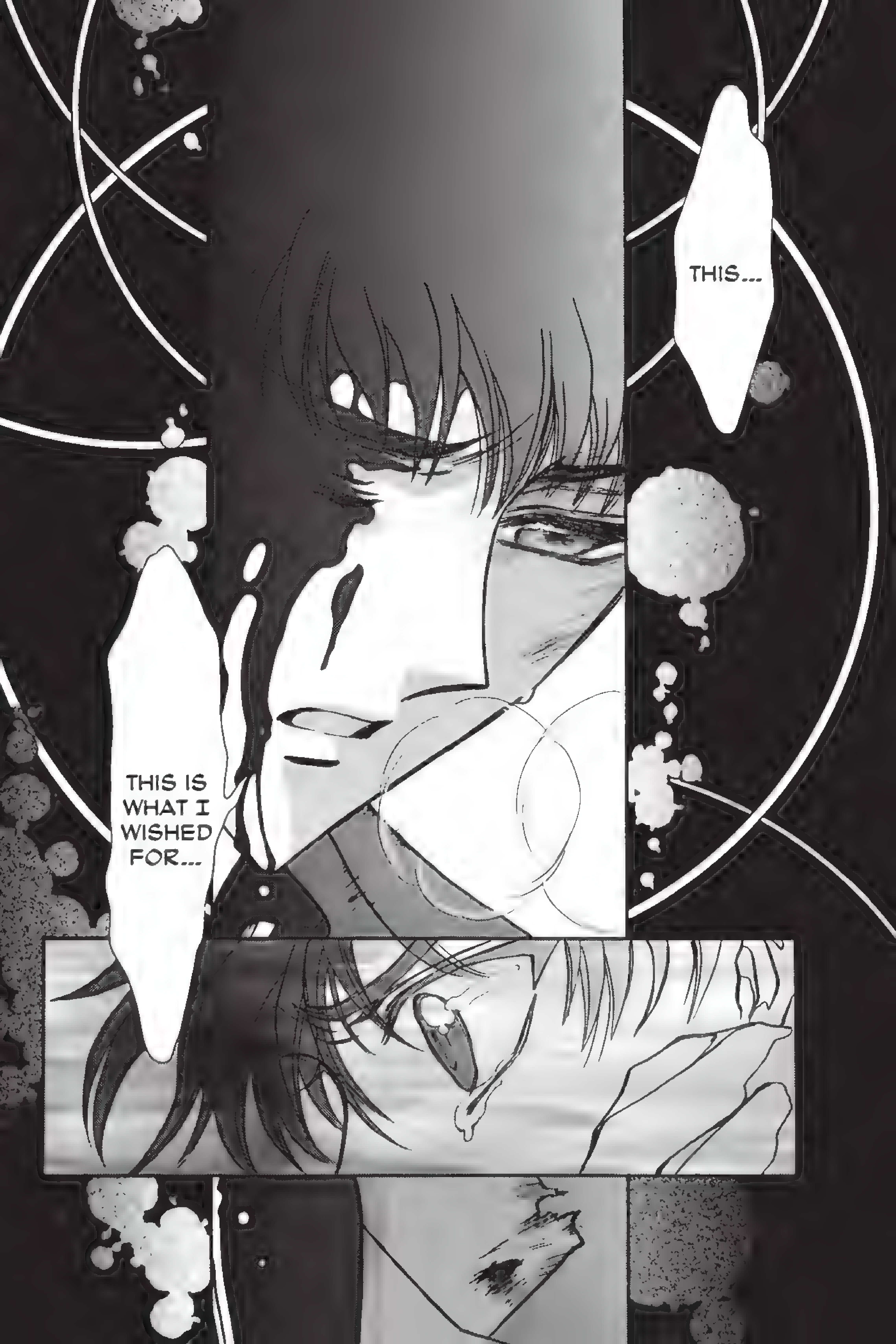

BAKOOM

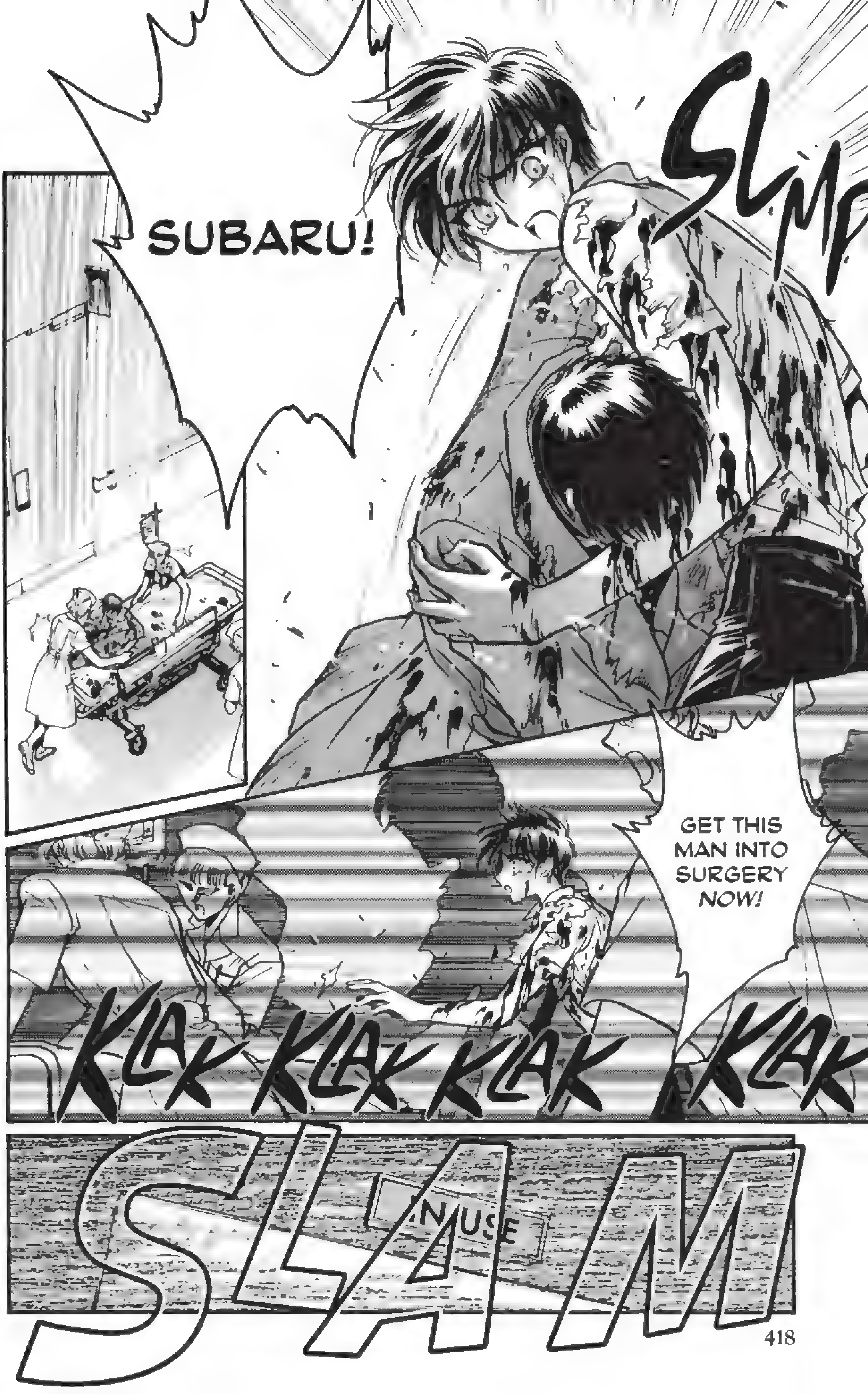
ROOOOAAAR

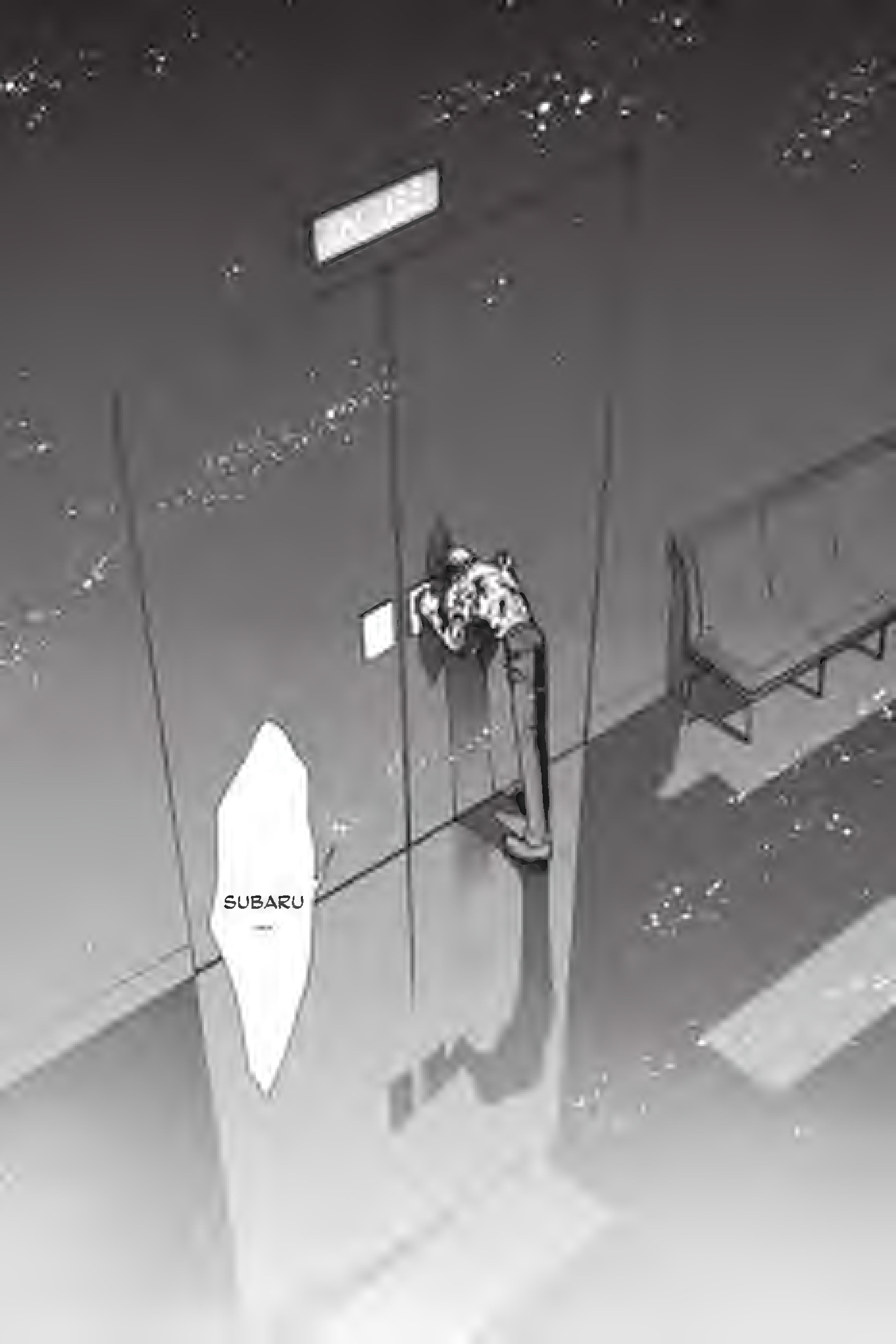

DID YOU PAGE THE DOCTOR ?!
KLAK KLAK
GET THE O.R. PREPPED!
KLAK KLAK KLAK
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
PL- PLEASE ... WAIT ...
SUBARU!
GRAB
SIR, WE HAVE TO GET YOU INTO SURGERY IMMEDIATELY!

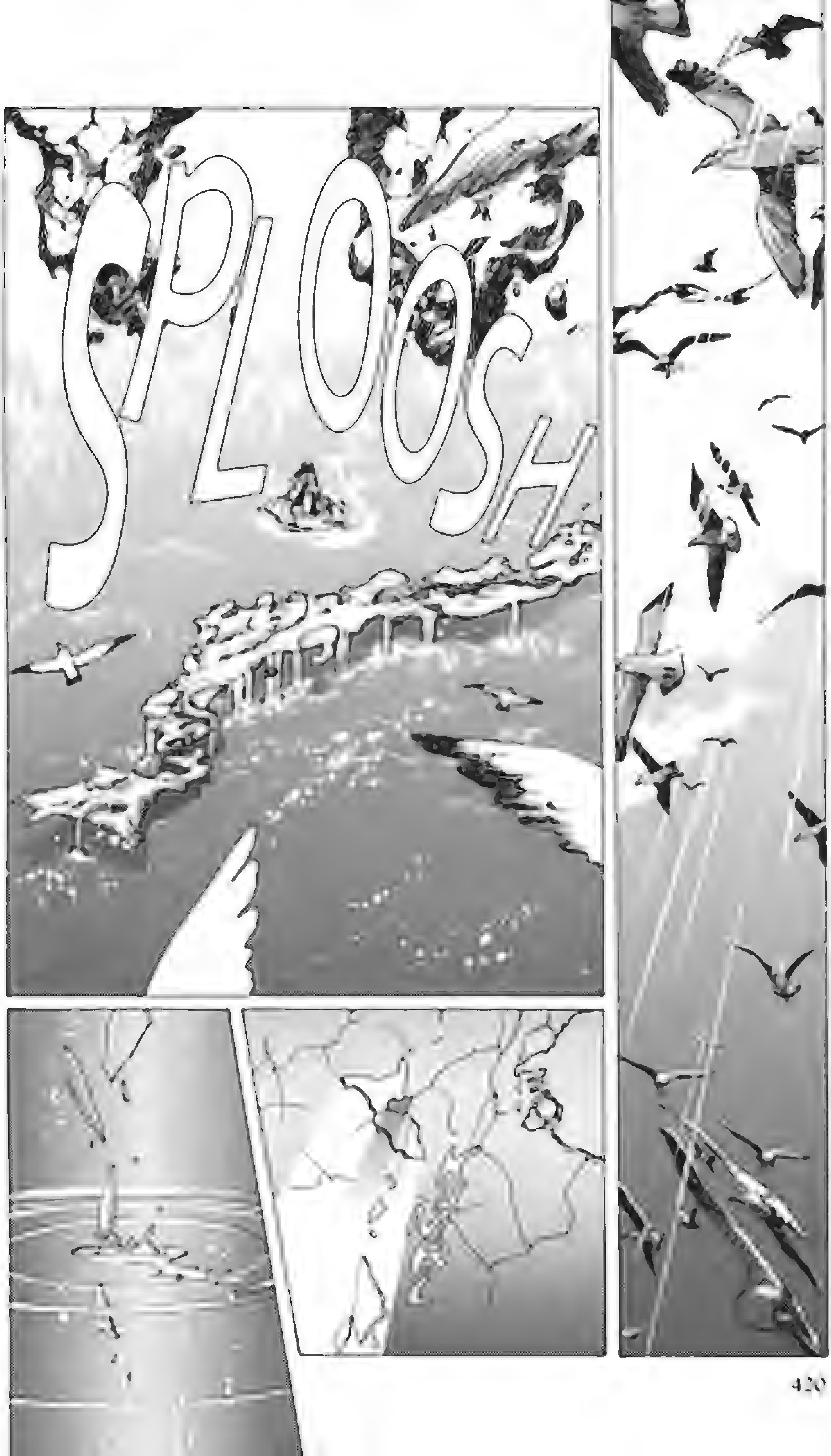

UNGH
DON'T TRY TO GET UP! YOU'RE TOO BADLY INJURED!
KA... MUI...
I'M SORRY...
I...
I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING...

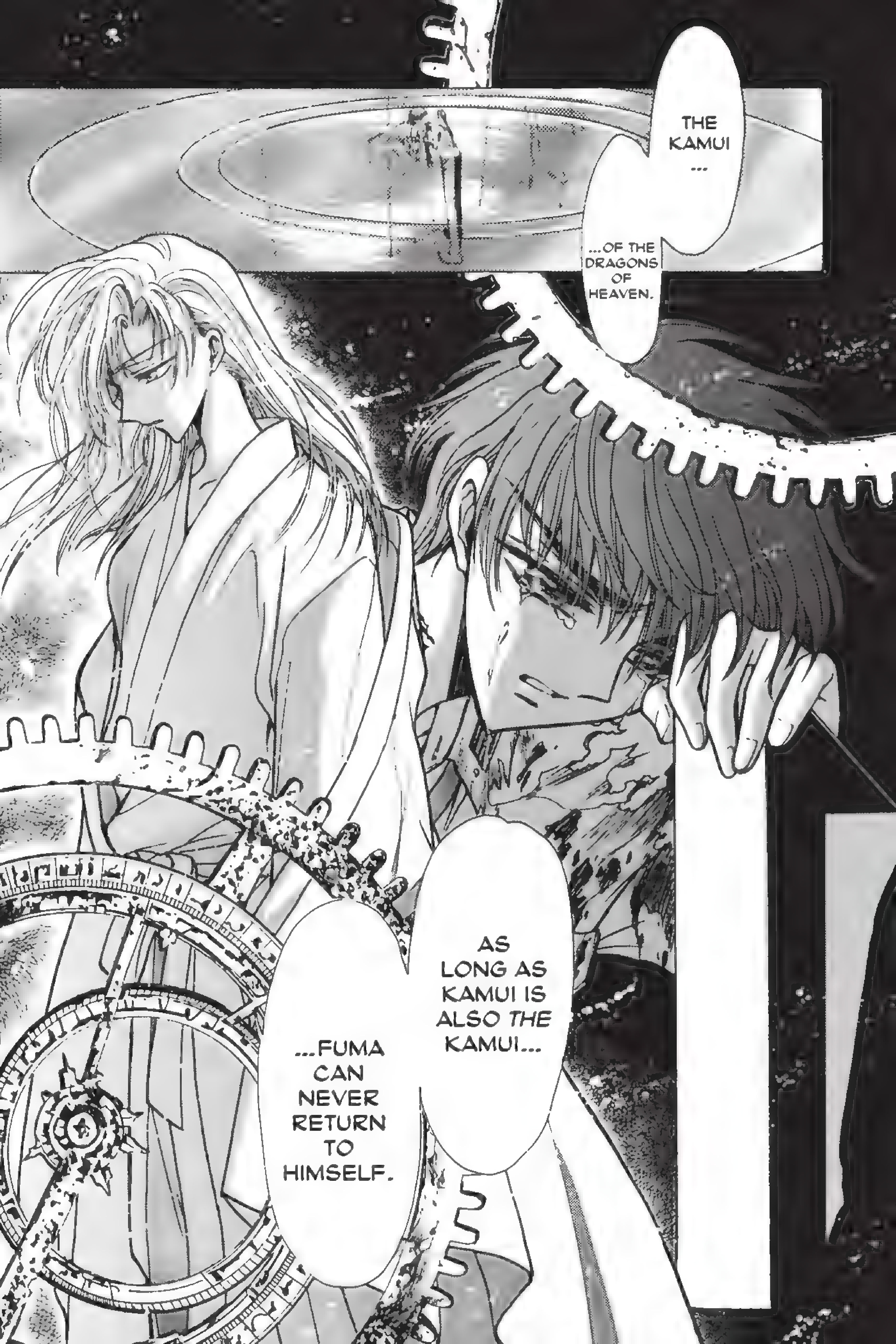

I'M SORRY!
NO...
FUG
IT'S NOT... YOUR FAULT...
NONE OF THIS... IS YOUR FAULT...
SUBARU ...

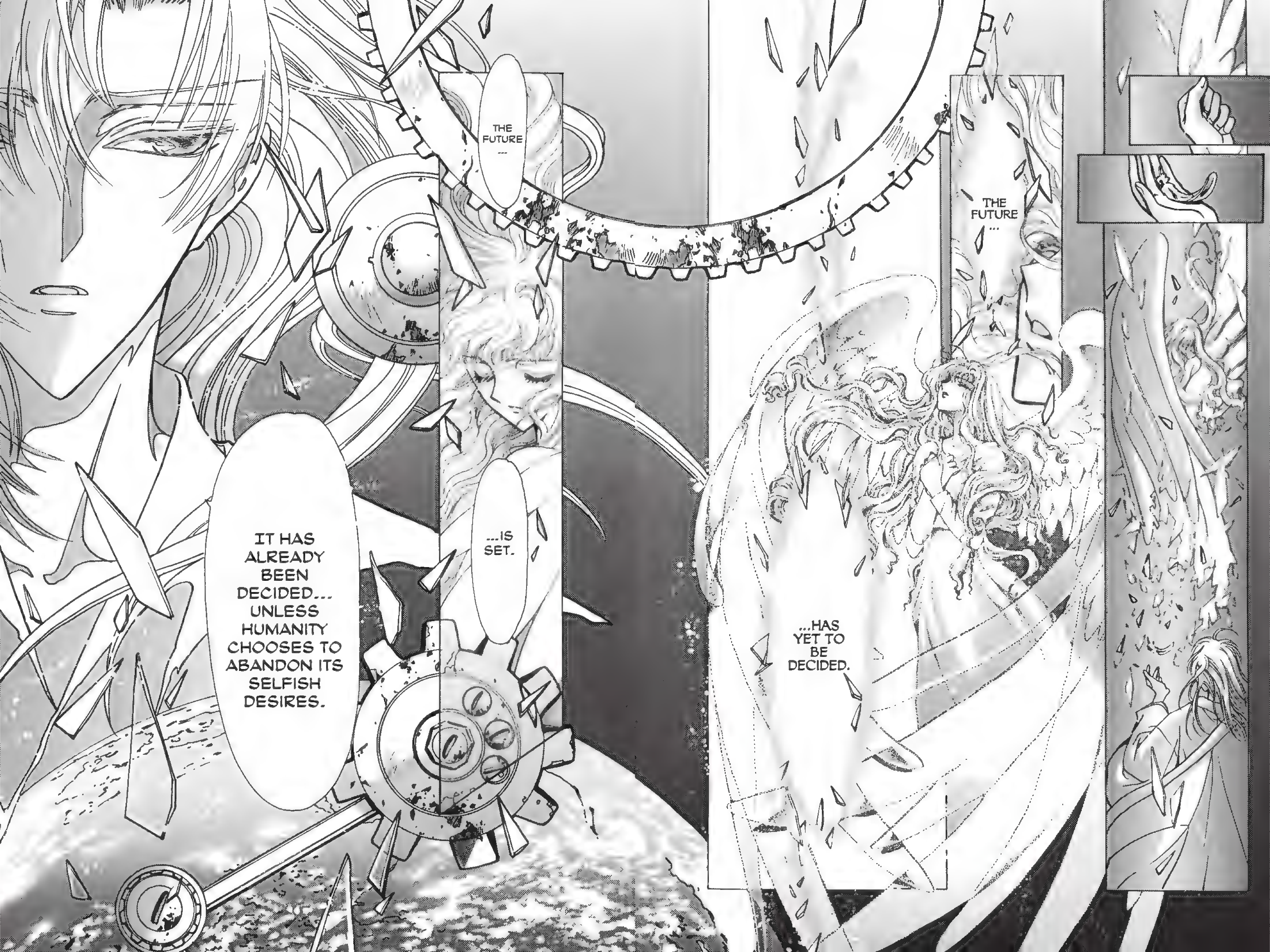

THIS...
THIS IS WHAT I WISHED FOR...

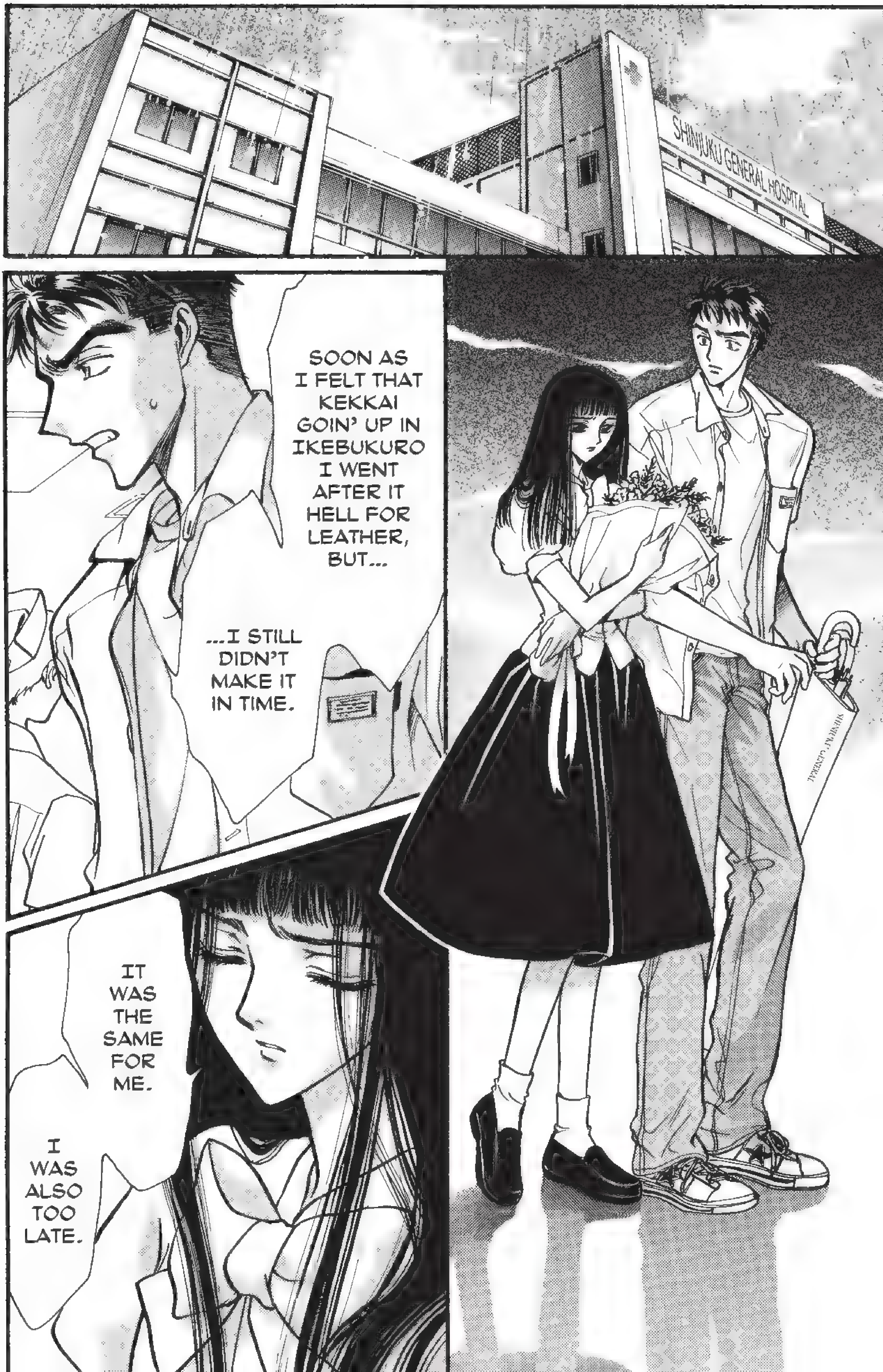

SLM
SUBARU!
GET THIS MAN INTO SURGERY *NOW!*
KLAK KLAK KLAK KLAK
IN USE
SLAM

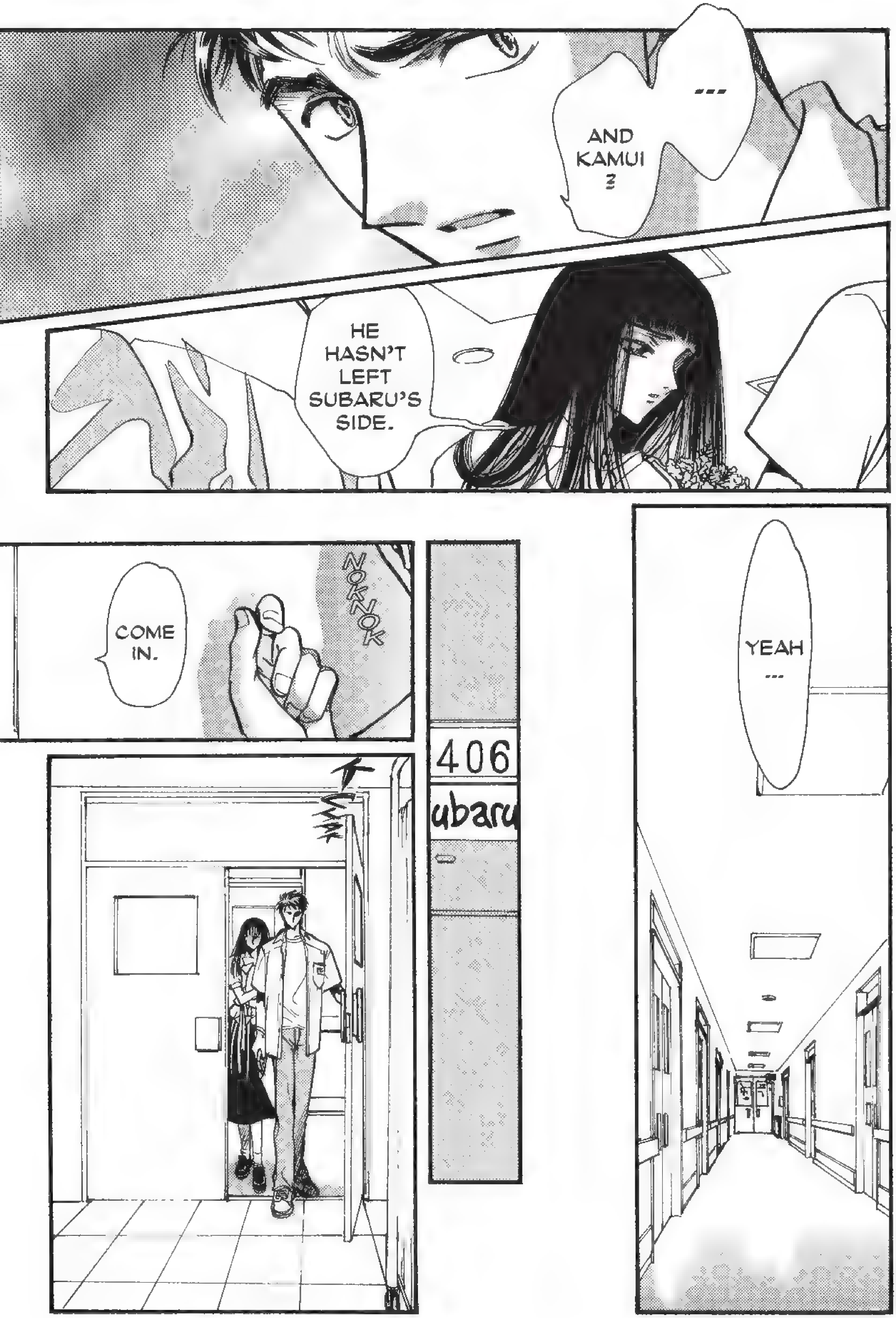

SUBARU
——

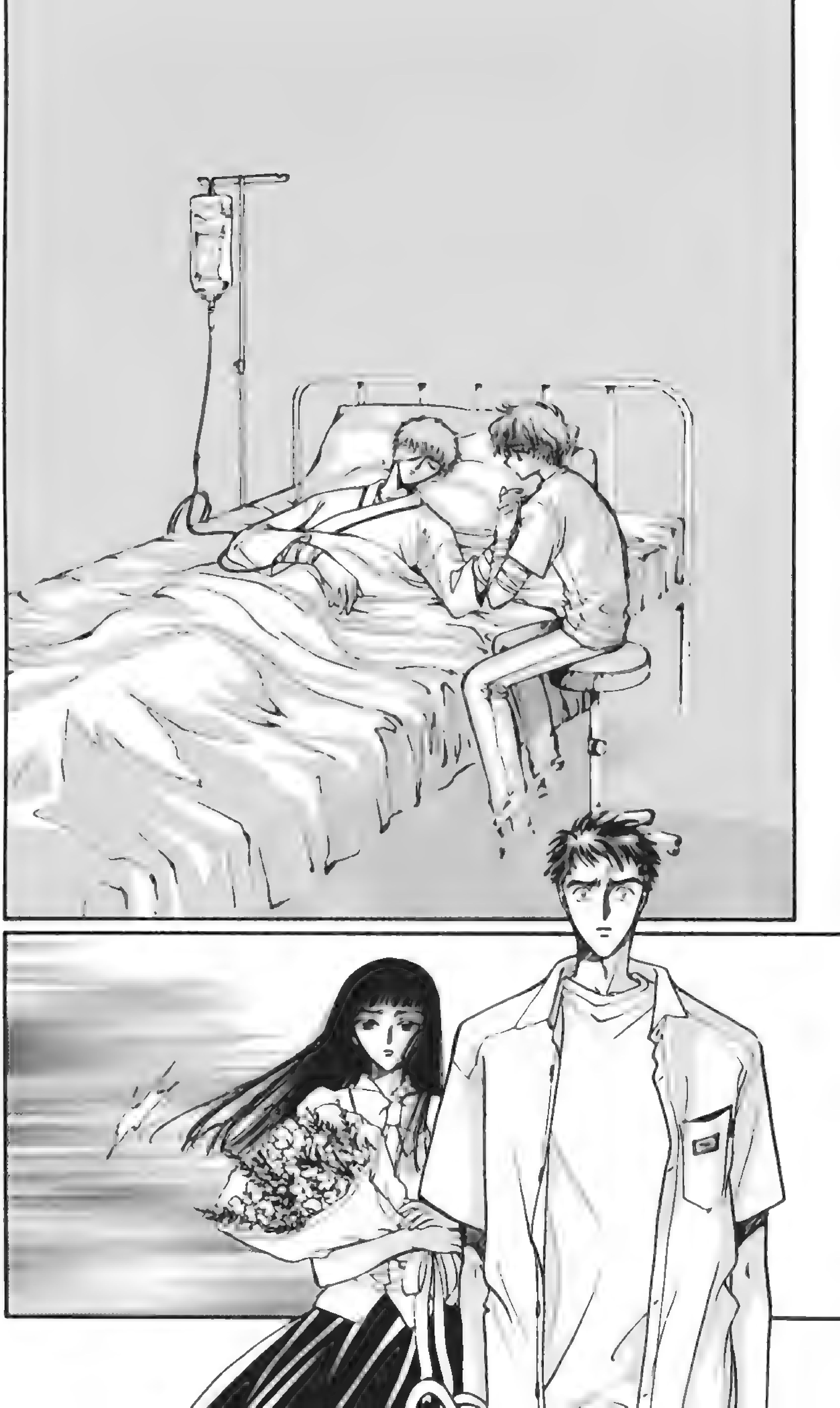

SPLOOSH

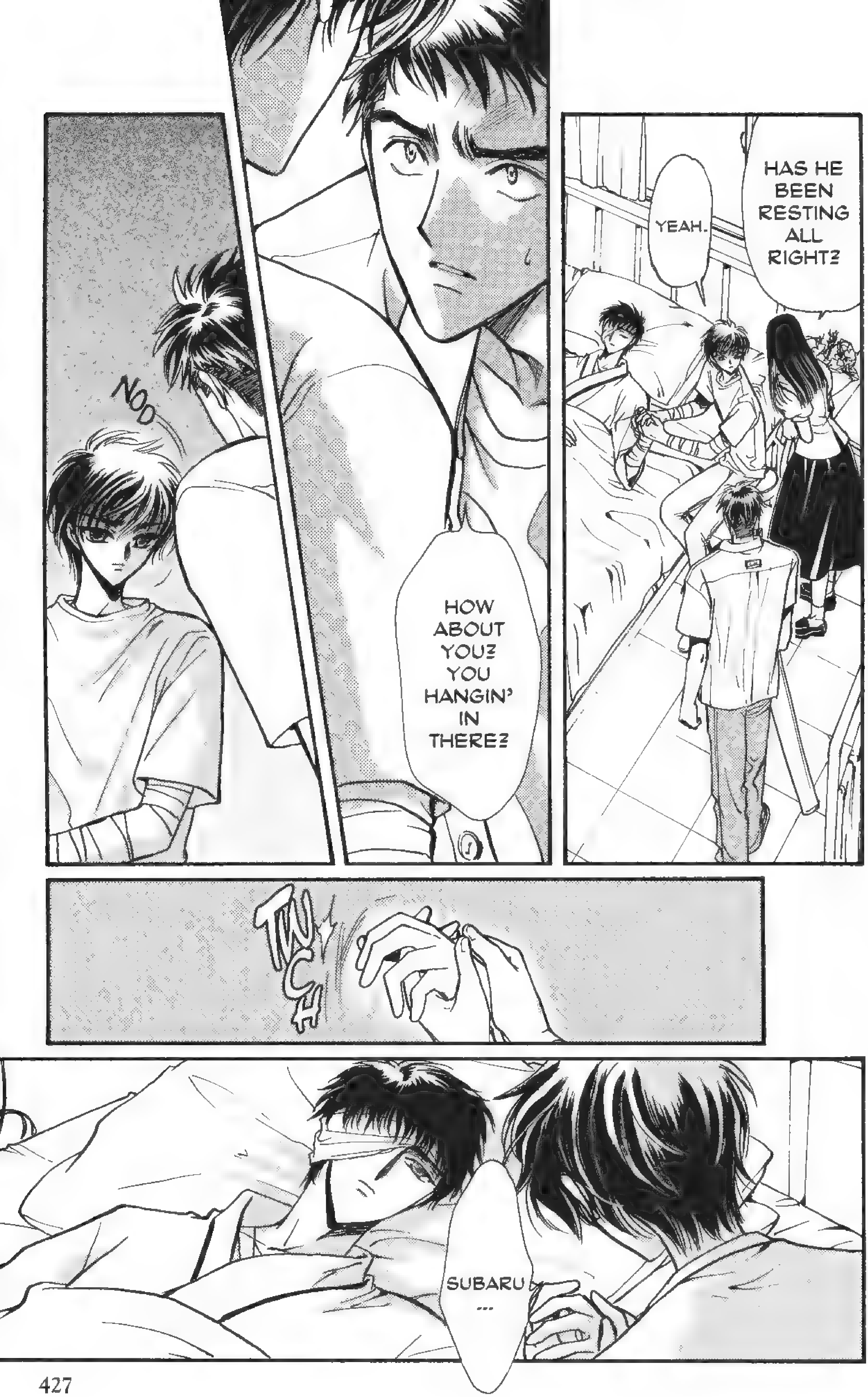

THE KAMUI ...
...OF THE DRAGONS OF HEAVEN.
AS LONG AS KAMUI IS ALSO *THE* KAMUI...
...FUMA CAN NEVER RETURN TO HIMSELF.

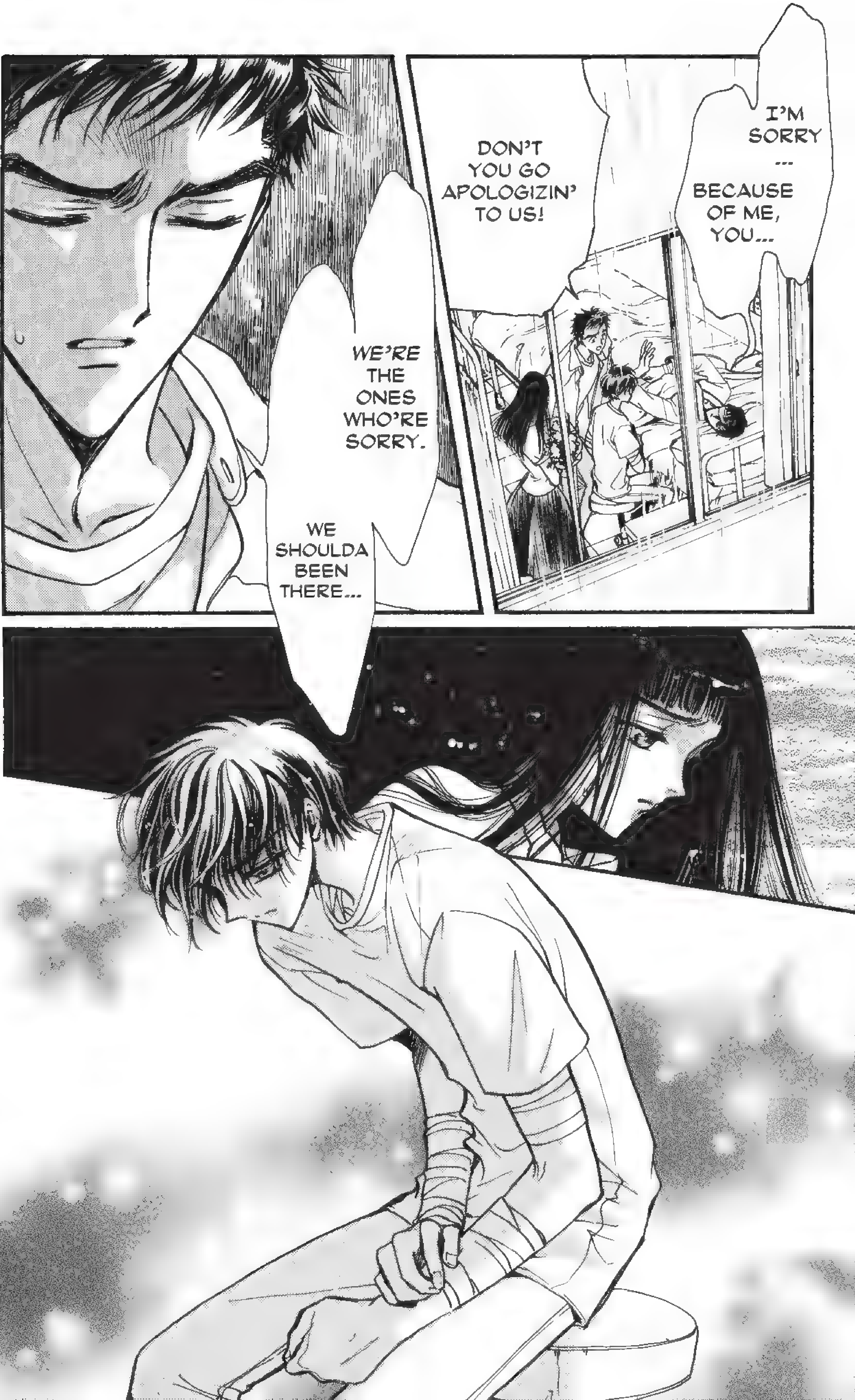

THE FUTURE ...
...HAS YET TO BE DECIDED.
THE FUTURE ...
...IS SET.
IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED... UNLESS HUMANITY CHOOSES TO ABANDON ITS SELFISH DESIRES.

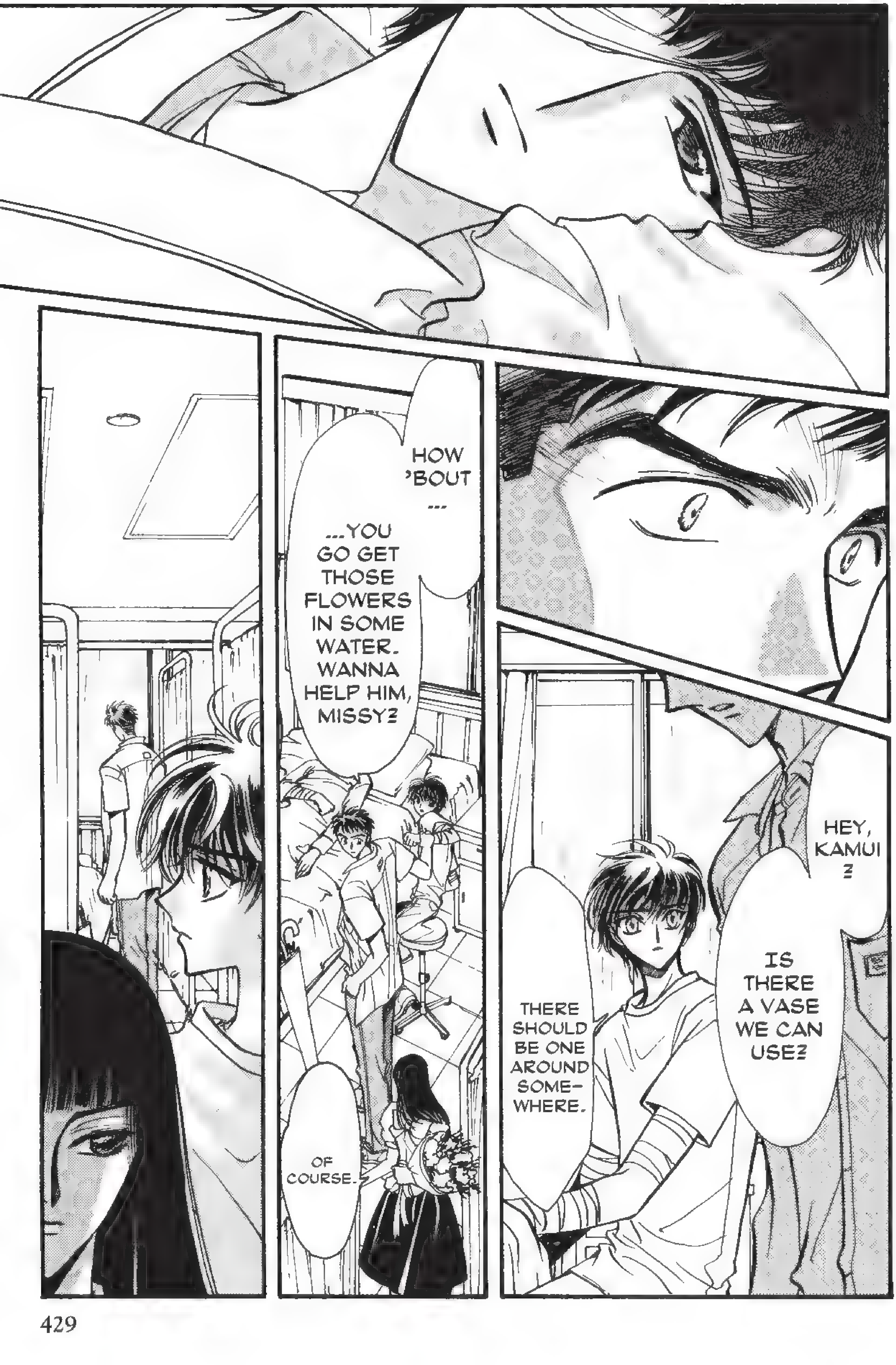

SHINJUKU GENERAL HOSPITAL
SOON AS I FELT THAT KEKKAI GOIN' UP IN IKEBUKURO I WENT AFTER IT HELL FOR LEATHER, BUT...
...I STILL DIDN'T MAKE IT IN TIME.
SHINJUKU GENERAL
IT WAS THE SAME FOR ME.
I WAS ALSO TOO LATE.

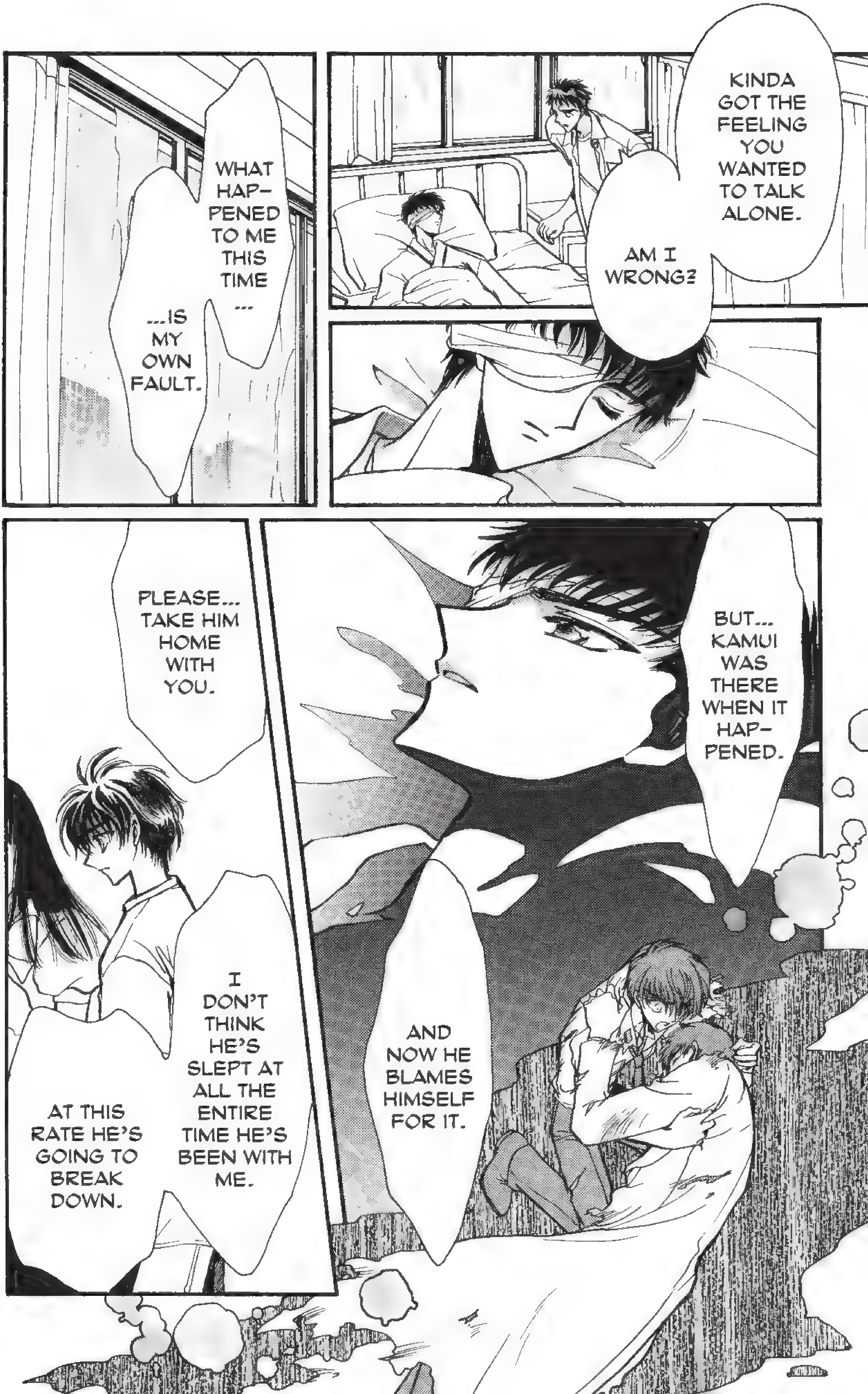

... AND KAMUI ?
HE HASN'T LEFT SUBARU'S SIDE.
YEAH ...
NOKNOK
COME IN.
406
ubaru

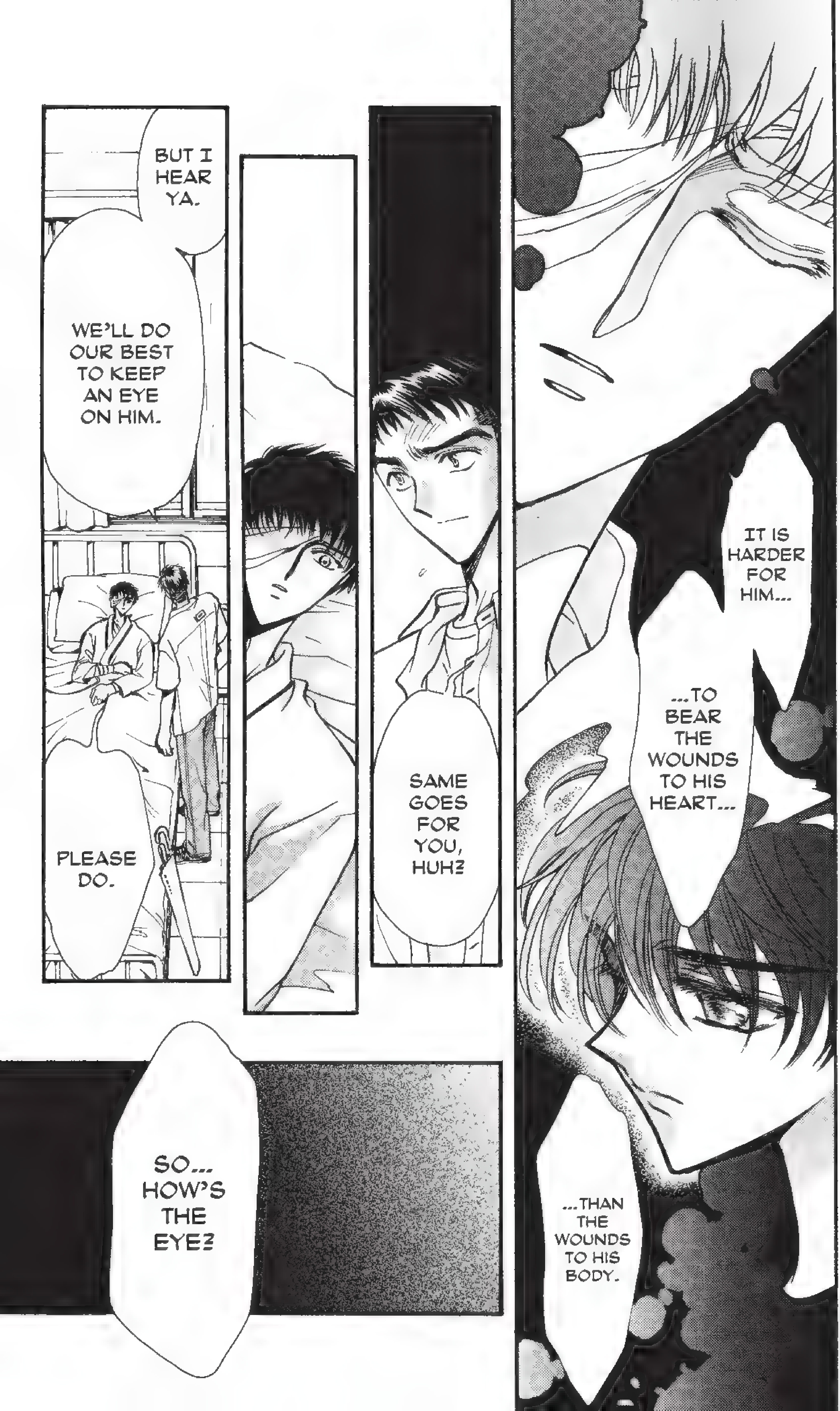


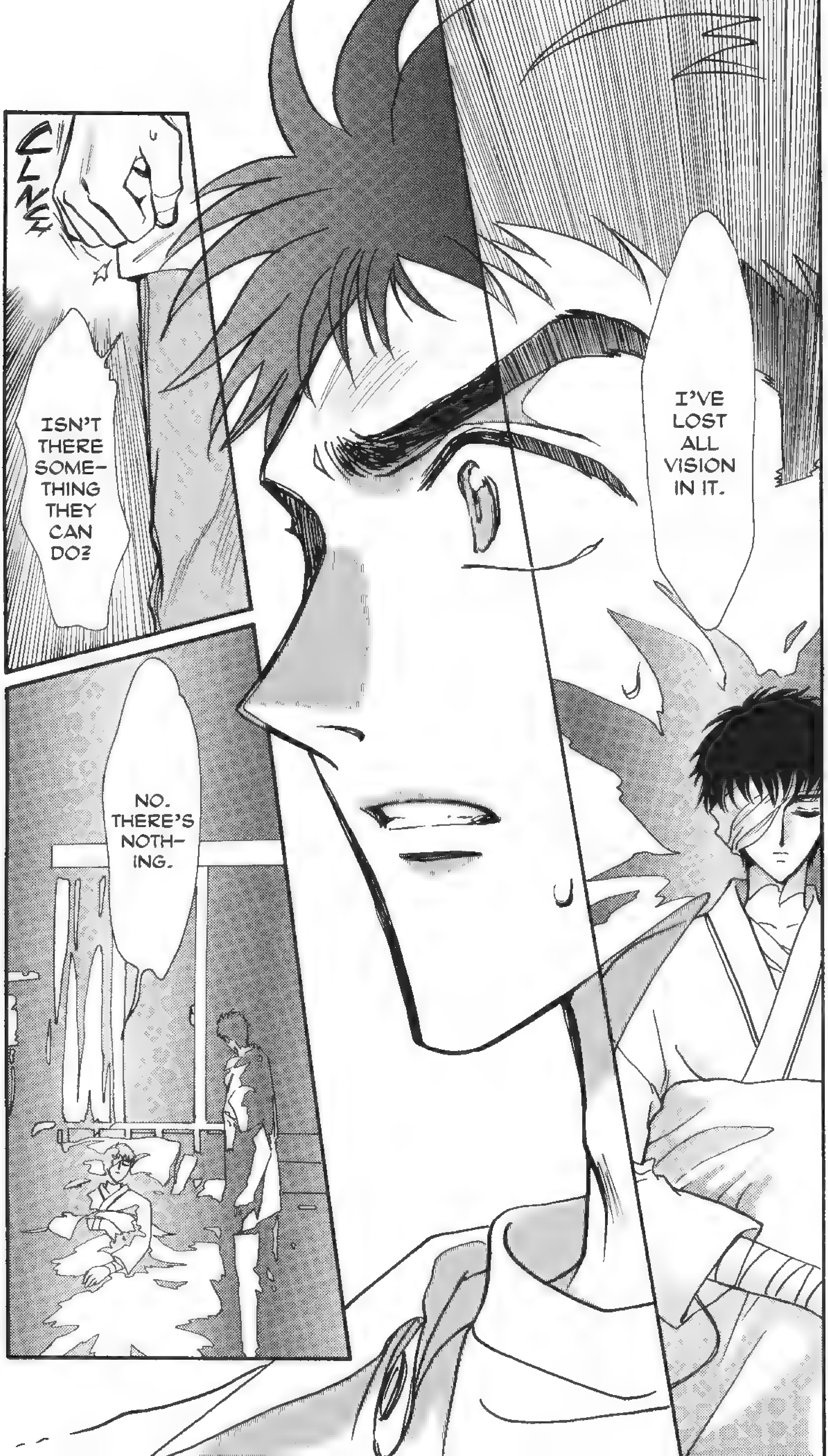

HAS HE BEEN RESTING ALL RIGHT?
YEAH.
HOW ABOUT YOU? YOU HANGIN' IN THERE?
NOD
TWITCH
SUBARU...

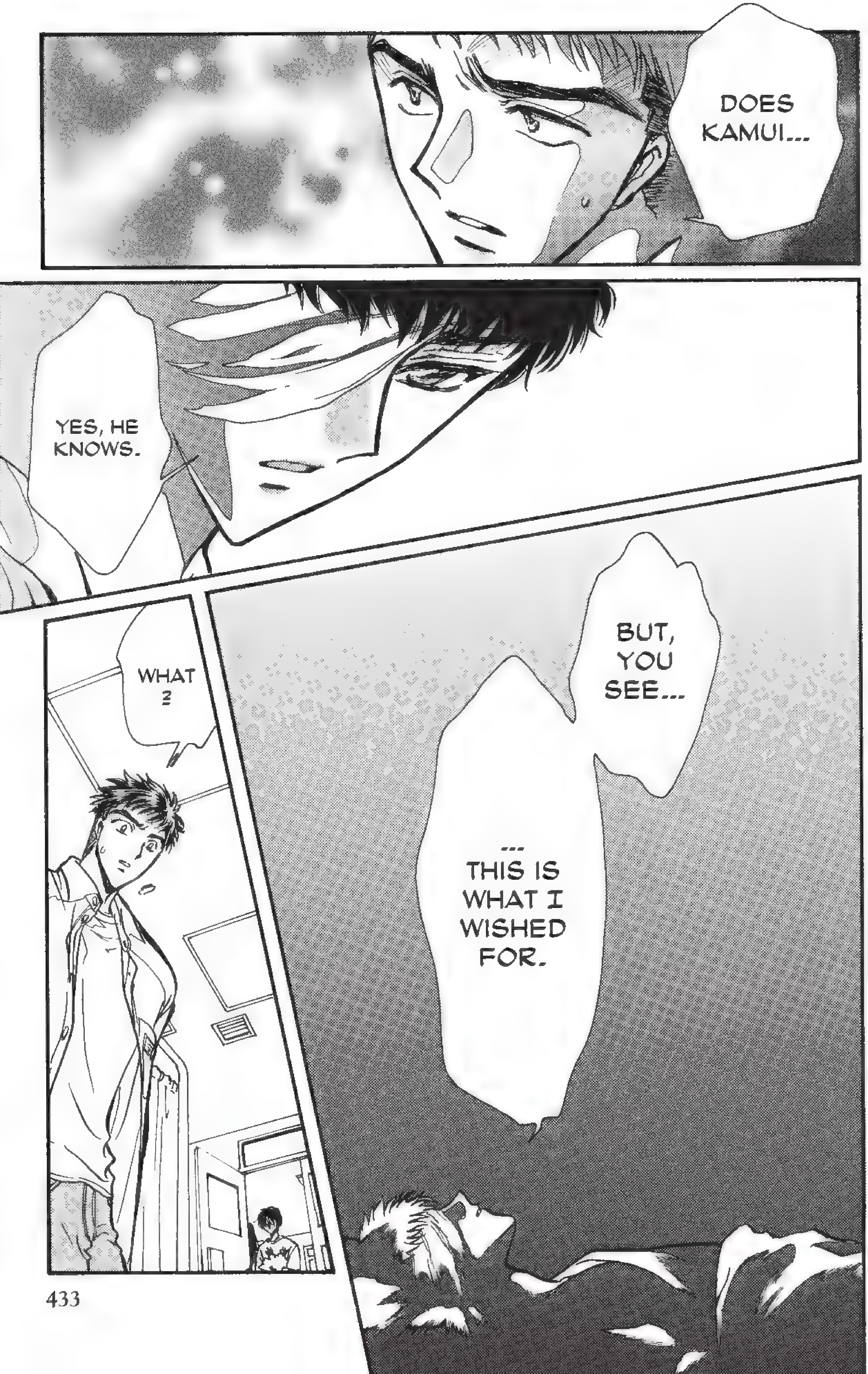

I'M SORRY ... BECAUSE OF ME, YOU...
DON'T YOU GO APOLOGIZIN' TO US!
WE'RE THE ONES WHO'RE SORRY.
WE SHOULDA BEEN THERE...

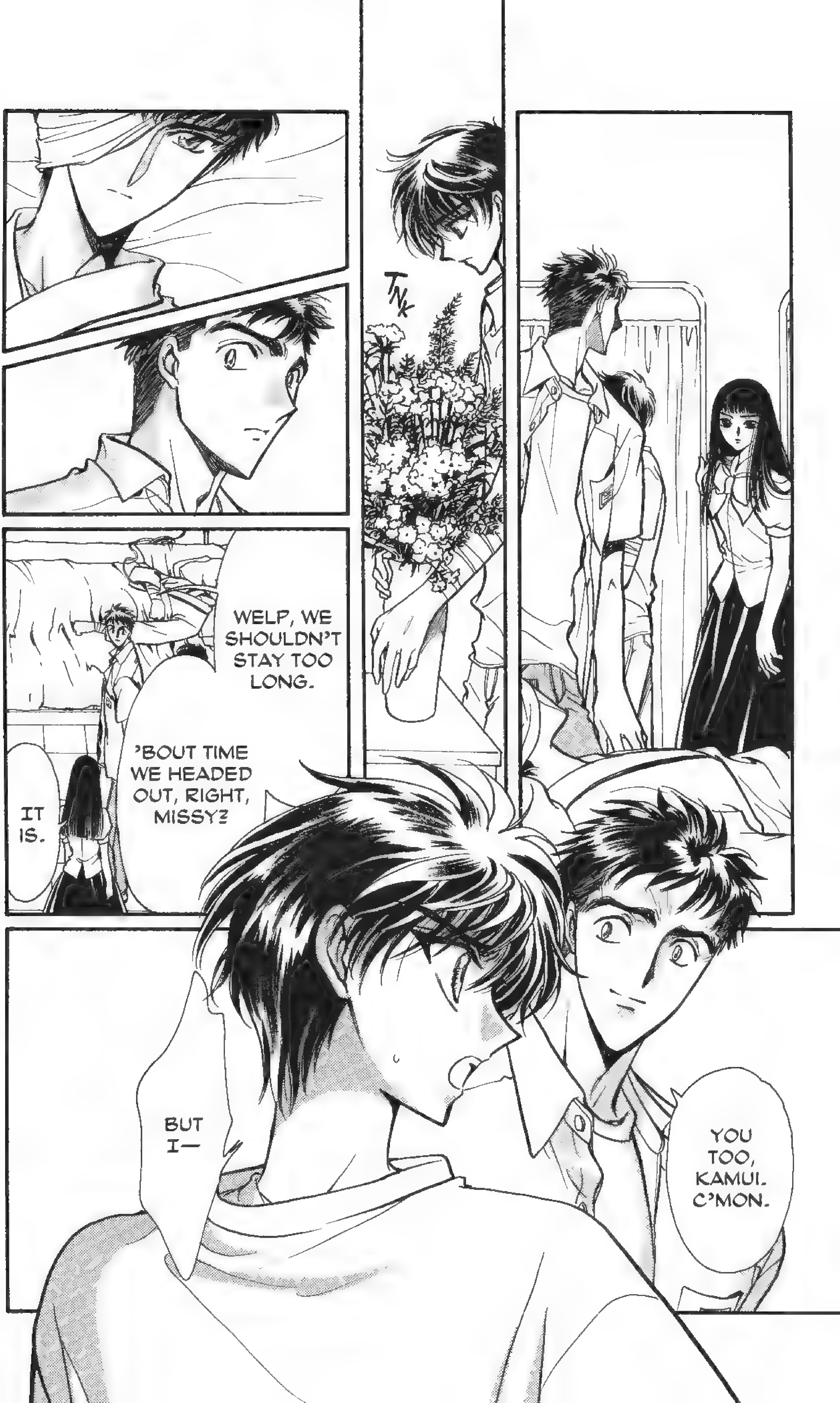

HEY, KAMUI?
IS THERE A VASE WE CAN USE?
THERE SHOULD BE ONE AROUND SOMEWHERE.
HOW 'BOUT...
...YOU GO GET THOSE FLOWERS IN SOME WATER. WANNA HELP HIM, MISSY?
OF COURSE.

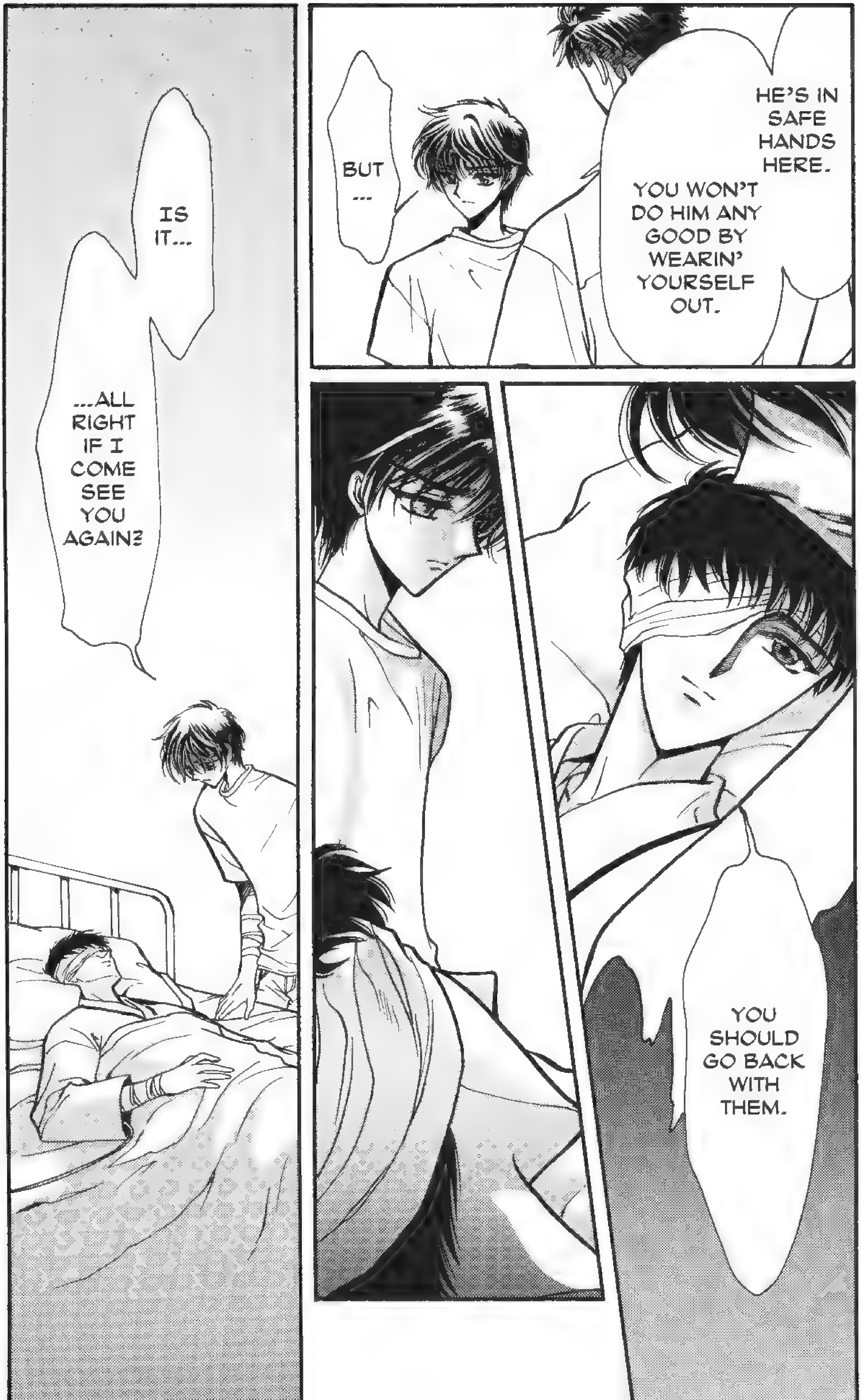

KINDA GOT THE FEELING YOU WANTED TO TALK ALONE.
AM I WRONG?
WHAT HAPPENED TO ME THIS TIME...
...IS MY OWN FAULT.
BUT... KAMUI WAS THERE WHEN IT HAPPENED.
AND NOW HE BLAMES HIMSELF FOR IT.
PLEASE... TAKE HIM HOME WITH YOU.
I DON'T THINK HE'S SLEPT AT ALL THE ENTIRE TIME HE'S BEEN WITH ME.
AT THIS RATE HE'S GOING TO BREAK DOWN.

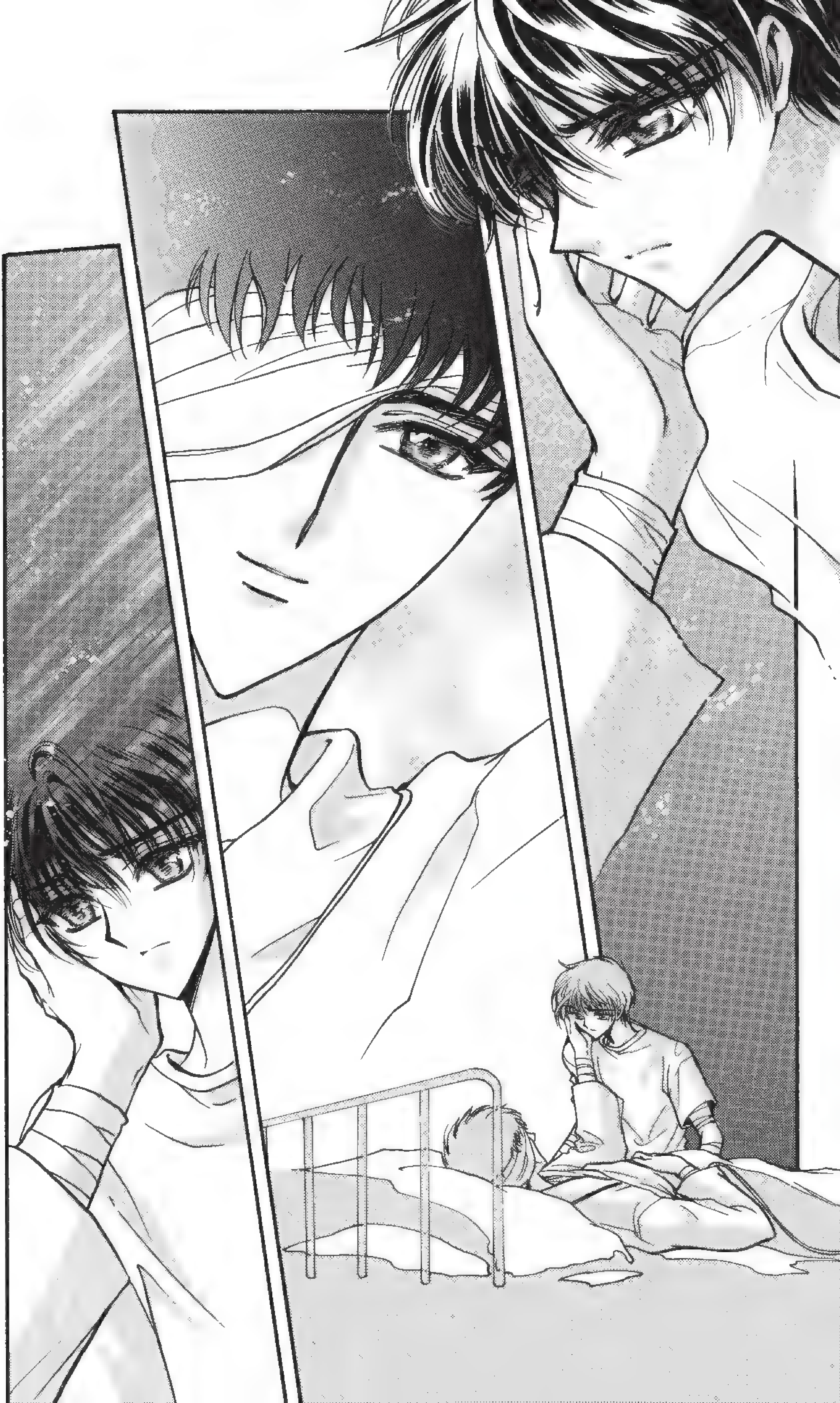

IT IS HARDER FOR HIM...
...TO BEAR THE WOUNDS TO HIS HEART...
...THAN THE WOUNDS TO HIS BODY.
SAME GOES FOR YOU, HUH?
BUT I HEAR YA.
WE'LL DO OUR BEST TO KEEP AN EYE ON HIM.
PLEASE DO.
SO... HOW'S THE EYE?

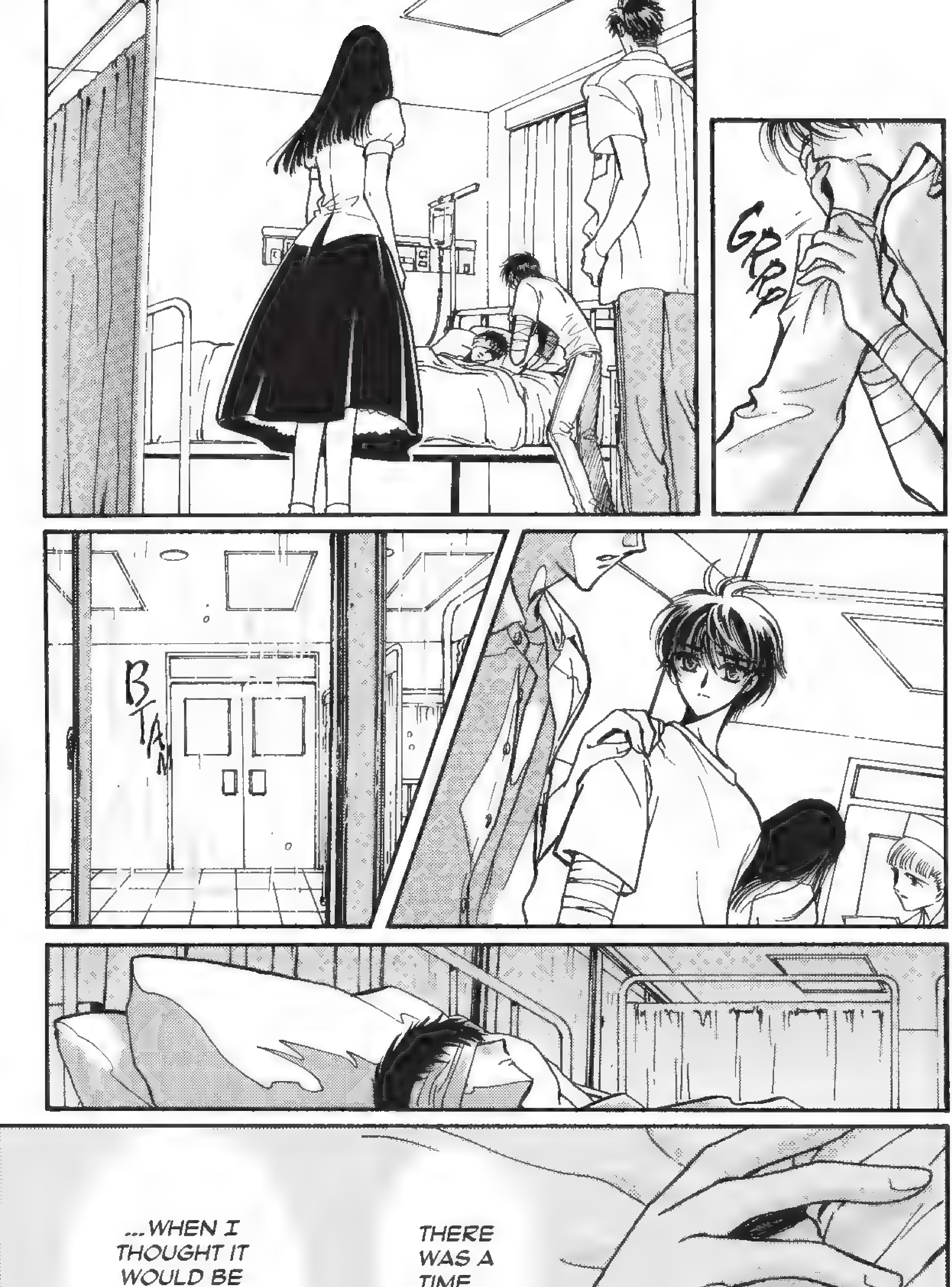

I'VE LOST ALL VISION IN IT.
CLNCH
ISN'T THERE SOMETHING THEY CAN DO?
NO. THERE'S NOTHING.

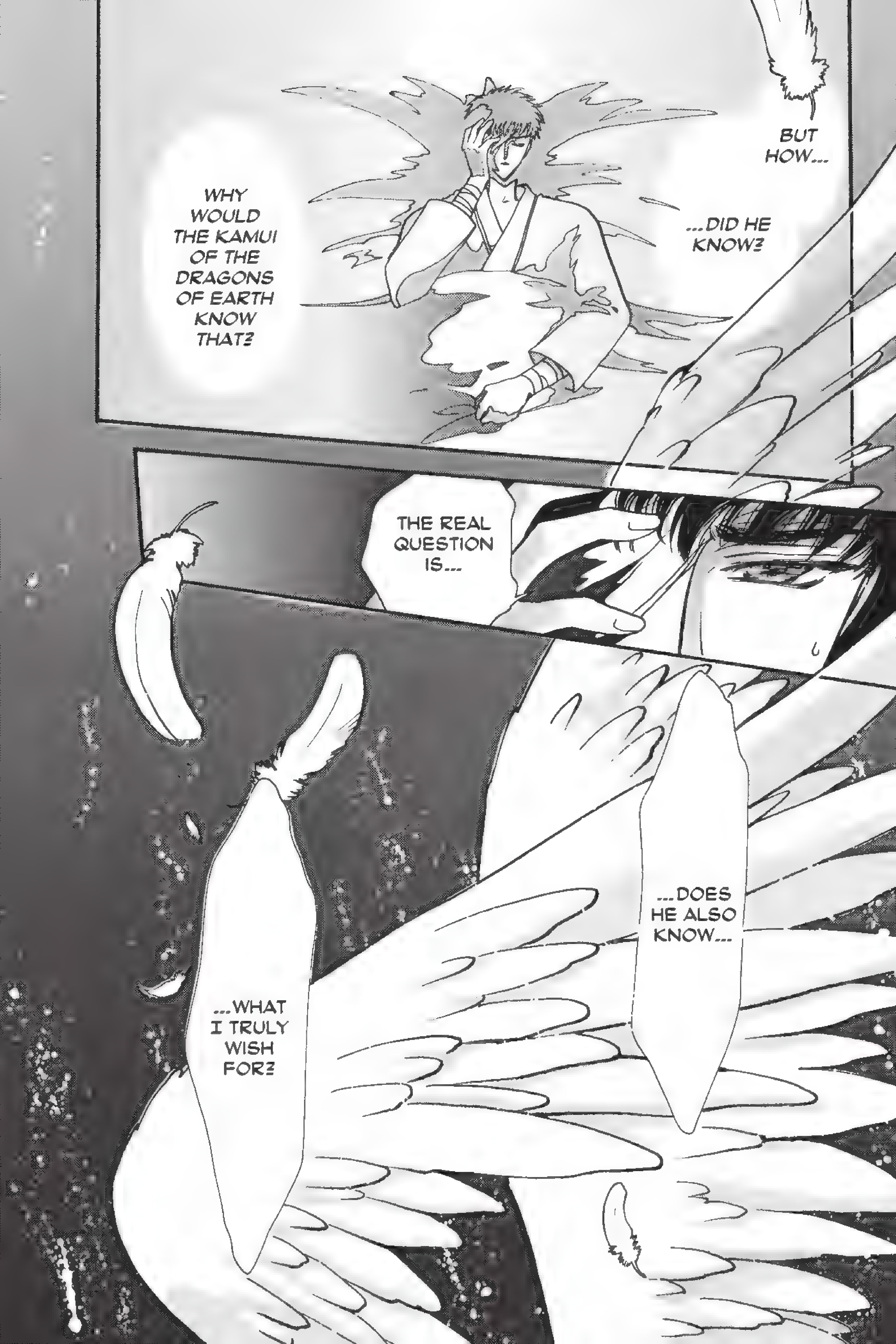

DOES KAMUI...
YES, HE KNOWS.
BUT, YOU SEE...
...THIS IS WHAT I WISHED FOR.
WHAT?

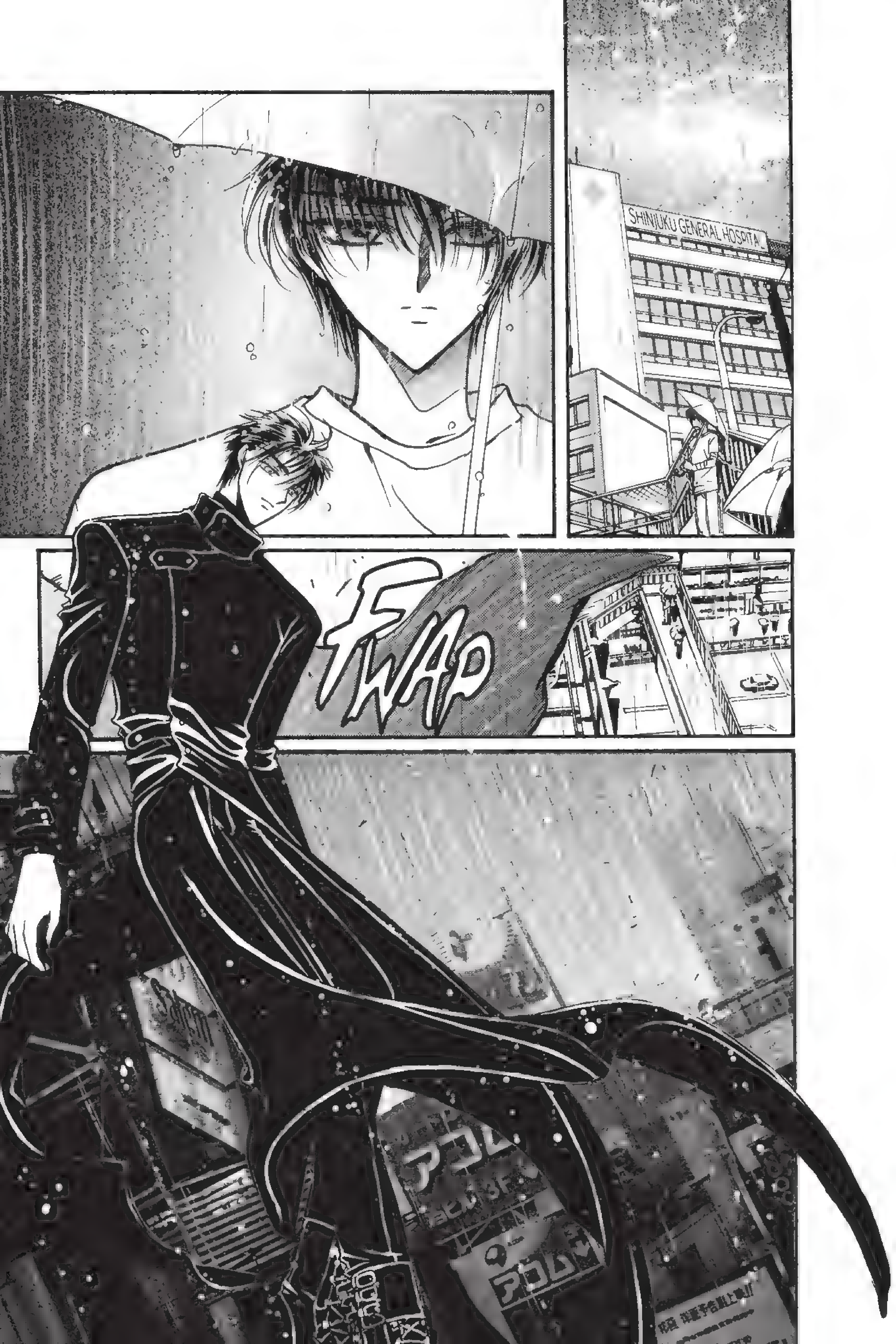

TNK
WELP, WE SHOULDN'T STAY TOO LONG.
'BOUT TIME WE HEADED OUT, RIGHT, MISSY?
IT IS.
YOU TOO, KAMUI. C'MON.
BUT I—

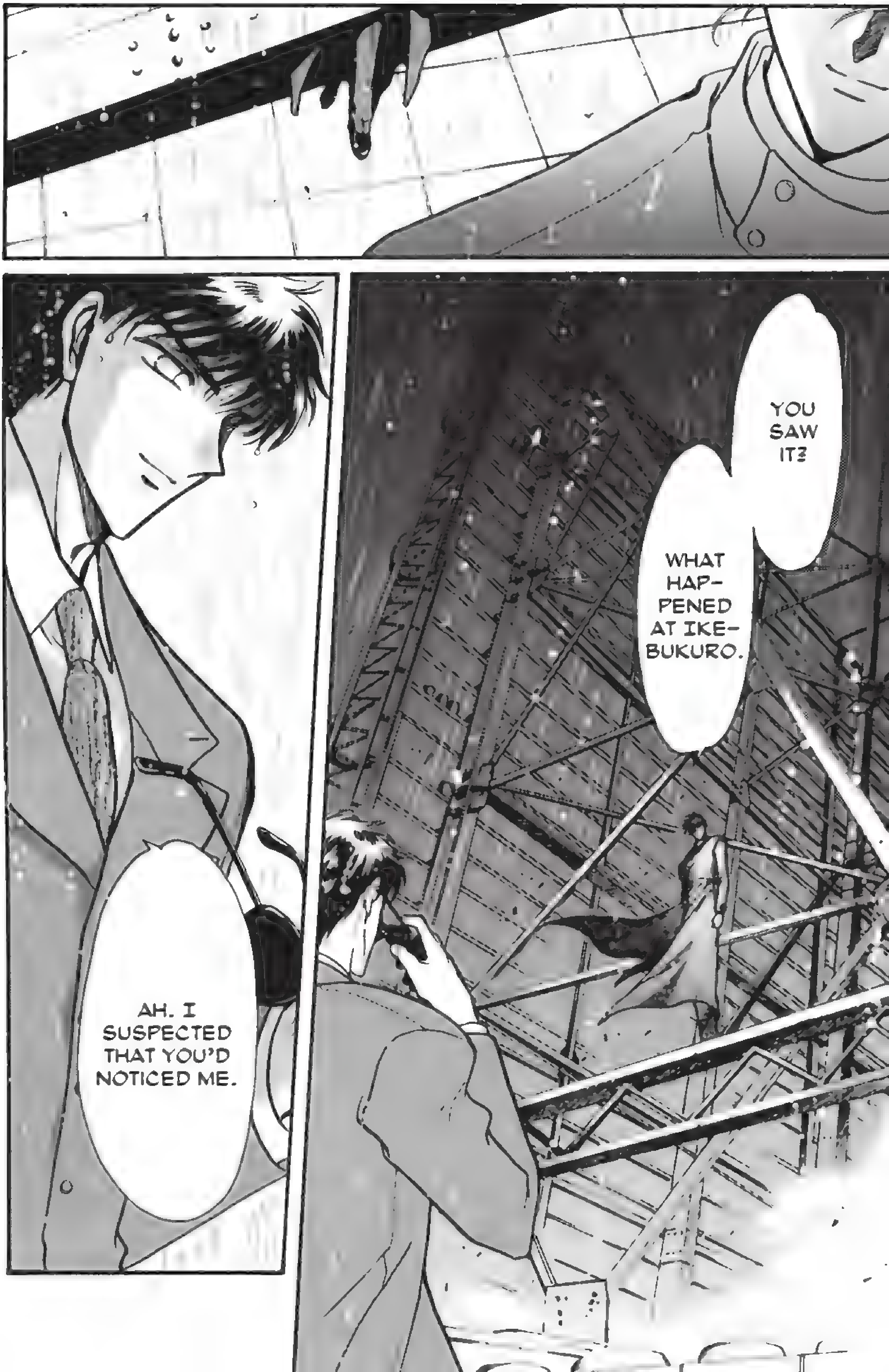

HE'S IN SAFE HANDS HERE.
YOU WON'T DO HIM ANY GOOD BY WEARIN' YOURSELF OUT.
BUT ...
YOU SHOULD GO BACK WITH THEM.
IS IT...
...ALL RIGHT IF I COME SEE YOU AGAIN?

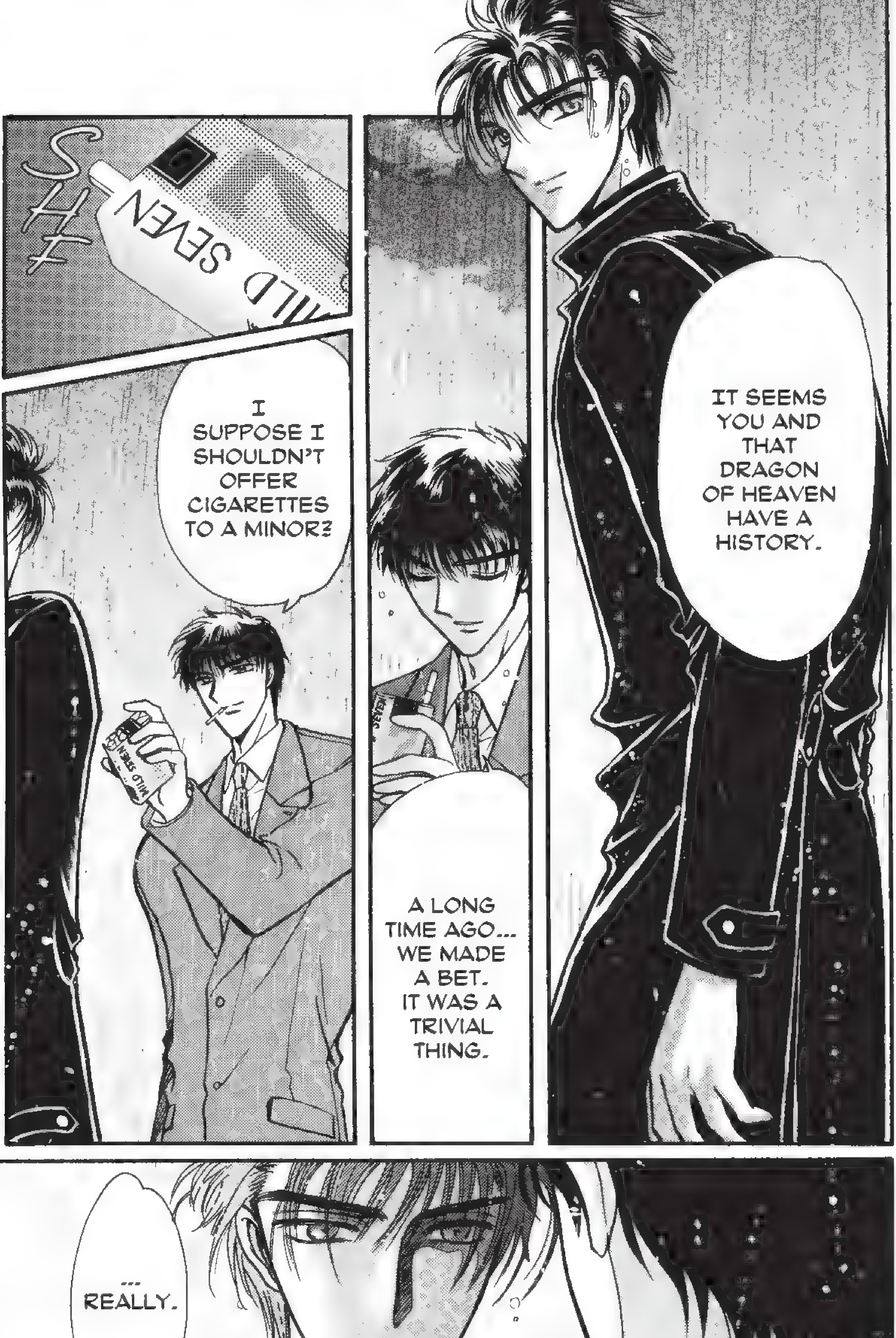


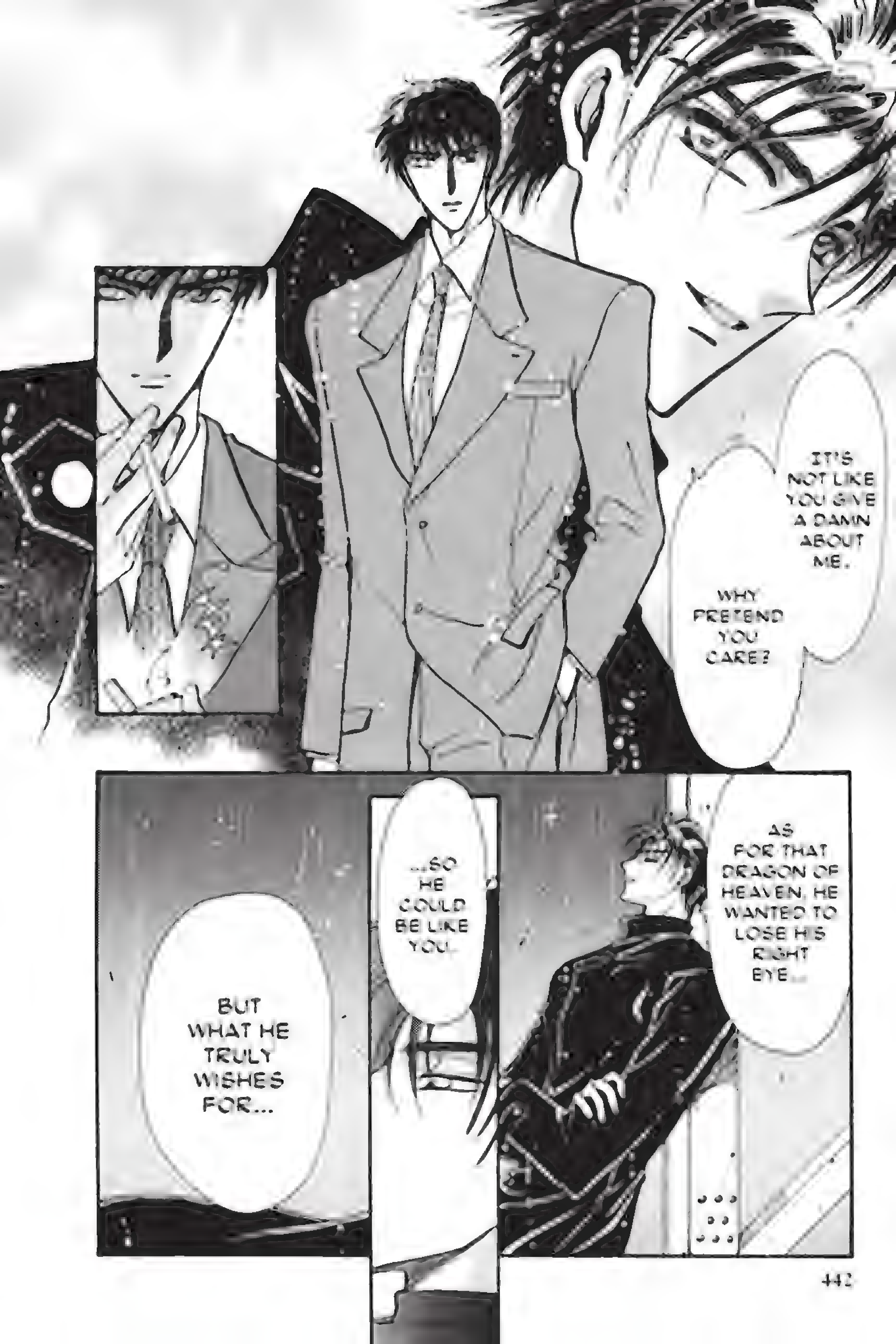

GRRP
BTAN
THERE WAS A TIME...
...WHEN I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE ONLY JUST FOR ME TO LOSE THE SIGHT IN MY RIGHT EYE.

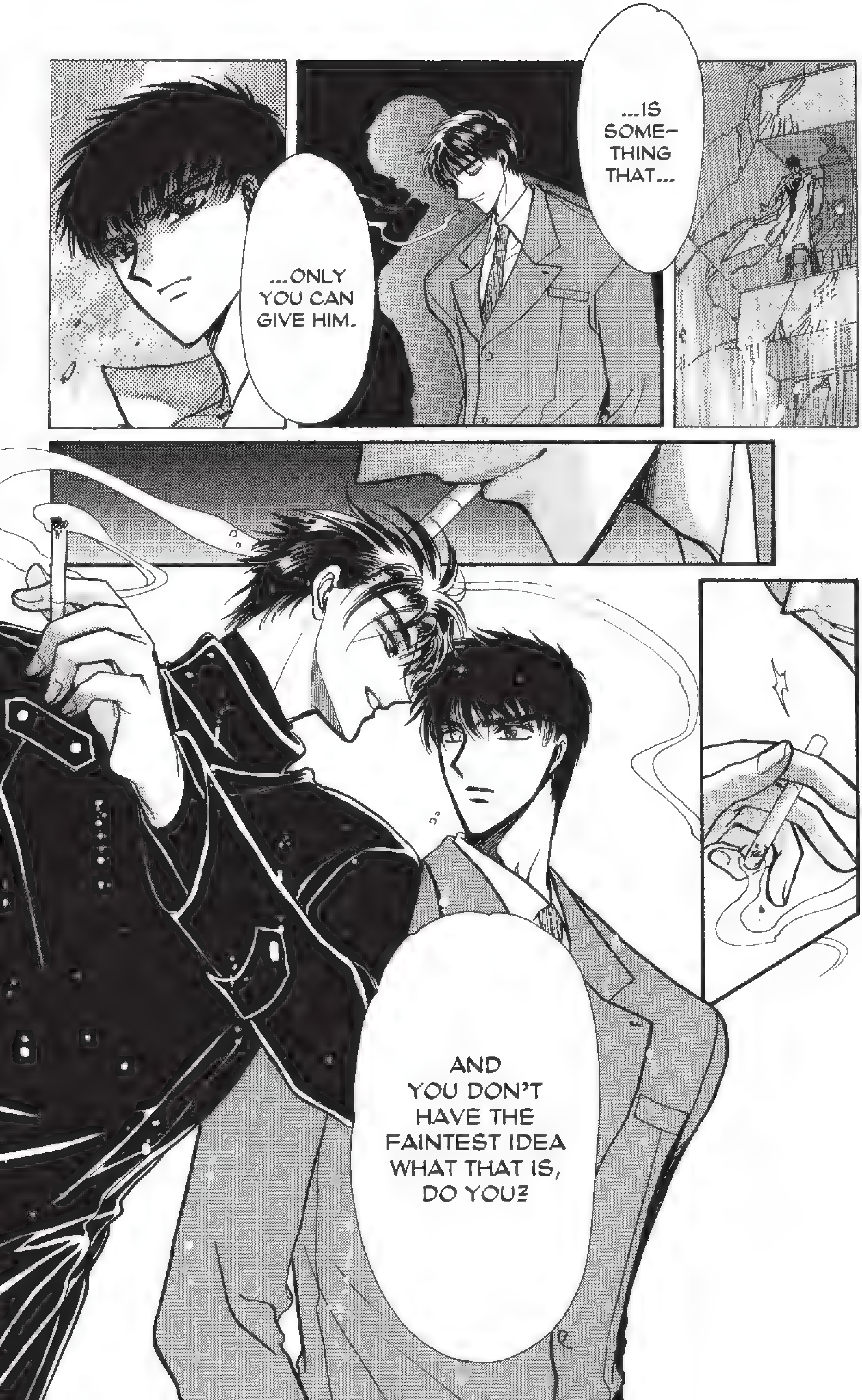

BUT HOW...
...DID HE KNOW?
WHY WOULD THE KAMUI OF THE DRAGONS OF EARTH KNOW THAT?
THE REAL QUESTION IS...
...DOES HE ALSO KNOW...
...WHAT I TRULY WISH FOR?


SHINJUKU GENERAL HOSPITAL
FWAP
アコム
アコム

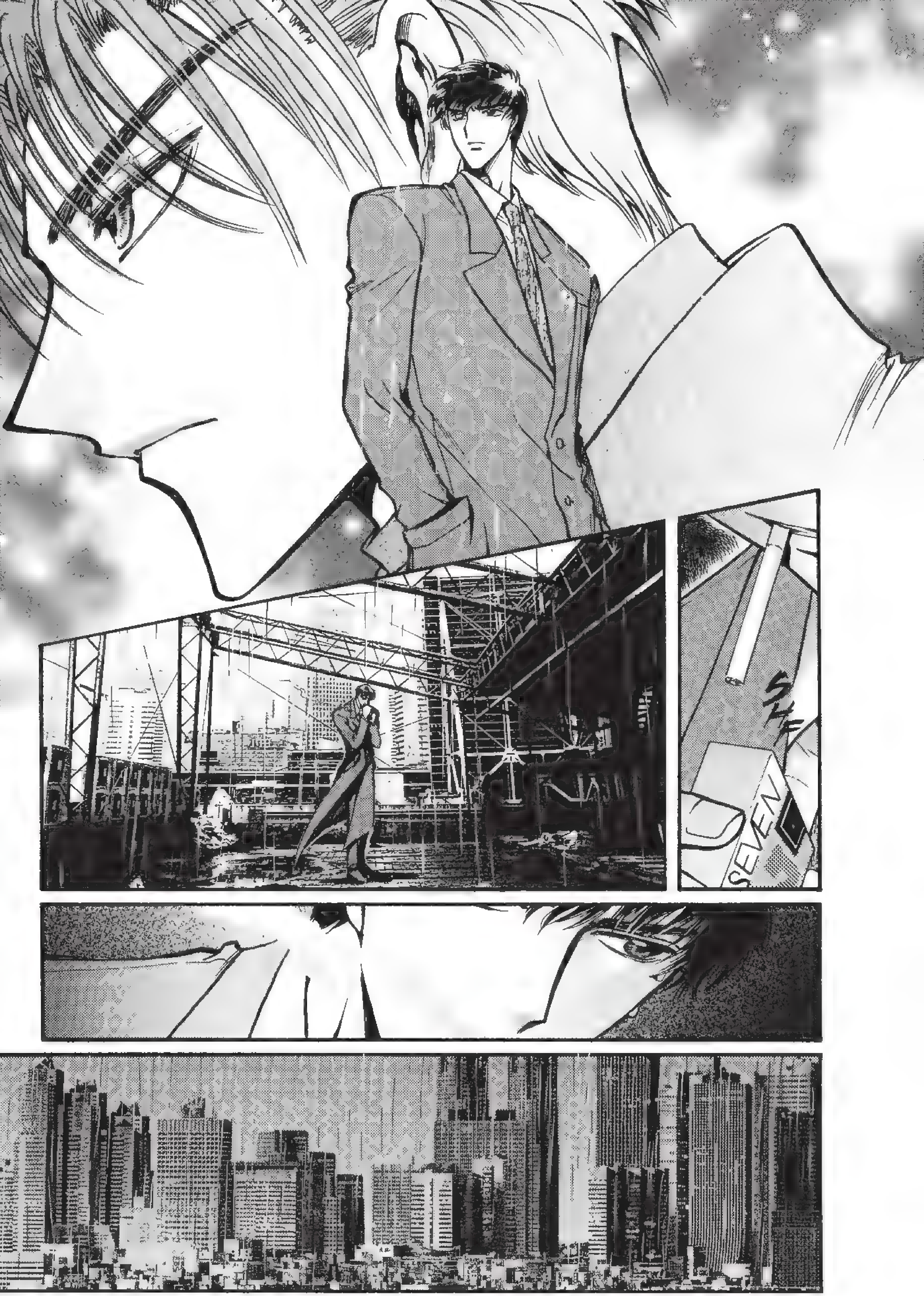

YOU SAW IT?
WHAT HAPPENED AT IKEBUKURO.
AH. I SUSPECTED THAT YOU'D NOTICED ME.

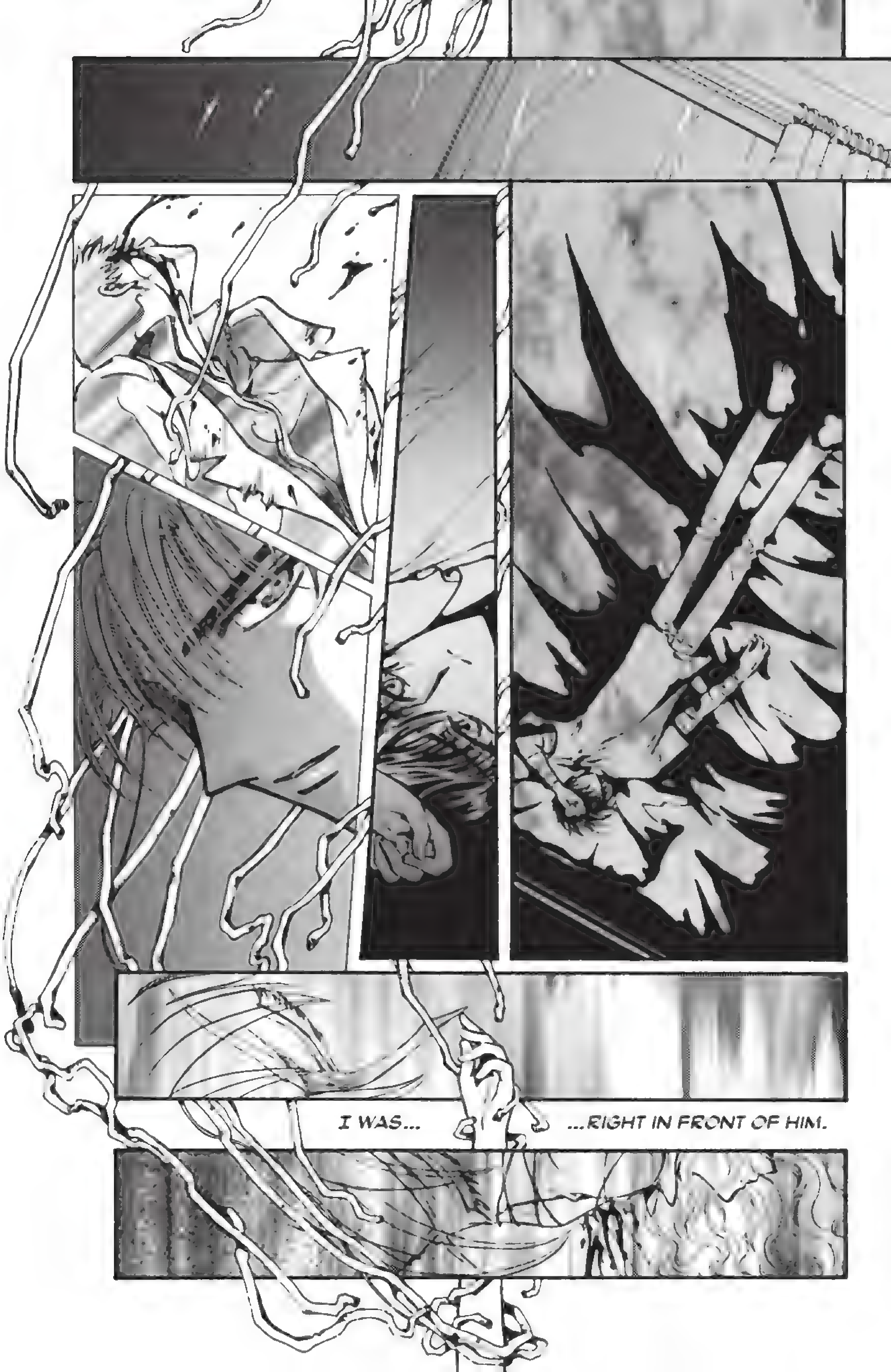

IT SEEMS YOU AND THAT DRAGON OF HEAVEN HAVE A HISTORY.
A LONG TIME AGO... WE MADE A BET. IT WAS A TRIVIAL THING.
SHH
WILD SEVEN
I SUPPOSE I SHOULDN'T OFFER CIGARETTES TO A MINOR?
... REALLY.


IT'S NOT LIKE YOU GIVE A DAMN ABOUT ME.
WHY PRETEND YOU CARE?
AS FOR THAT DRAGON OF HEAVEN, HE WANTED TO LOSE HIS RIGHT EYE...
...SO HE COULD BE LIKE YOU.
BUT WHAT HE TRULY WISHES FOR...

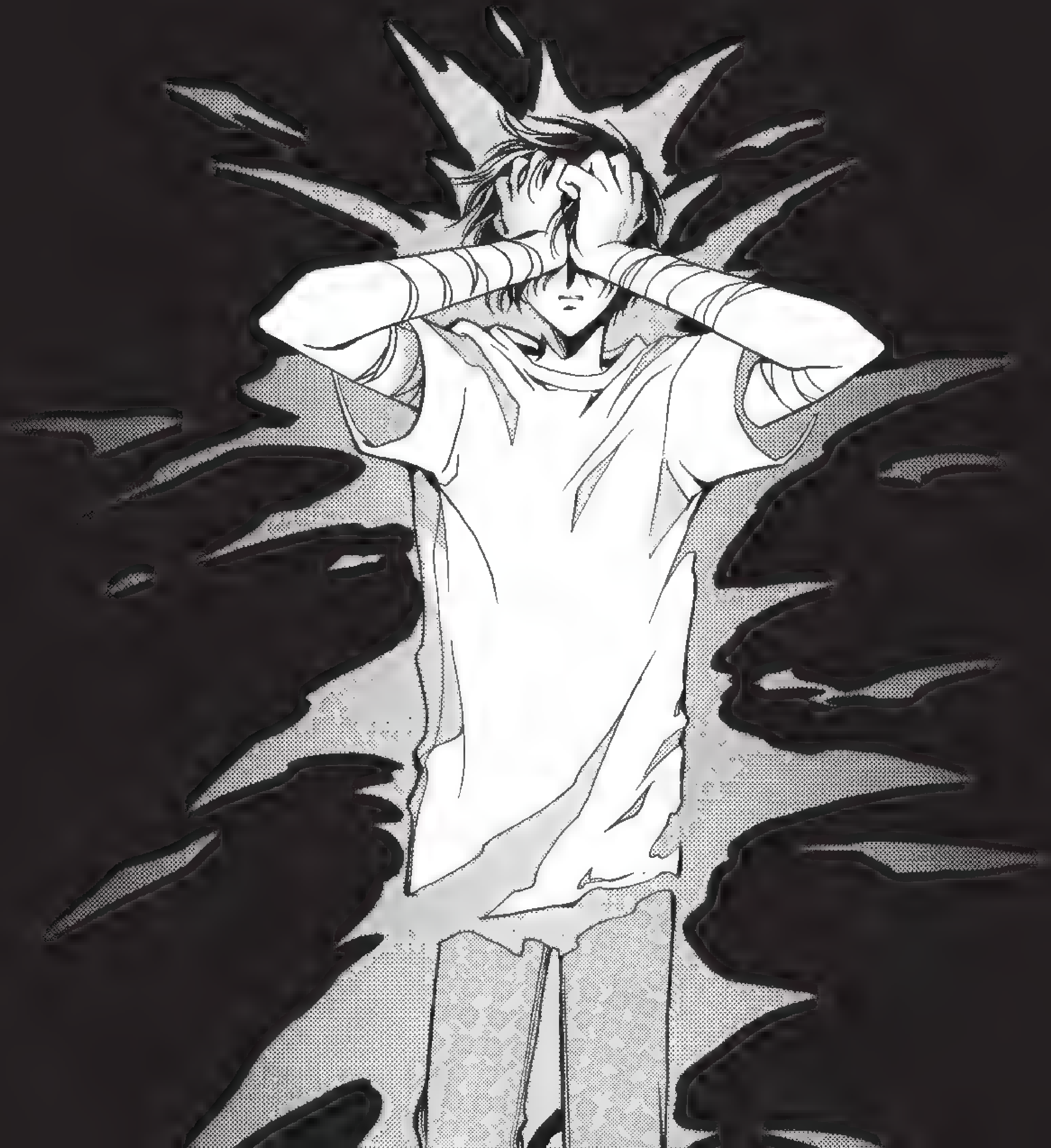

...IS SOMETHING THAT...
...ONLY YOU CAN GIVE HIM.
AND YOU DON'T HAVE THE FAINTEST IDEA WHAT THAT IS, DO YOU?

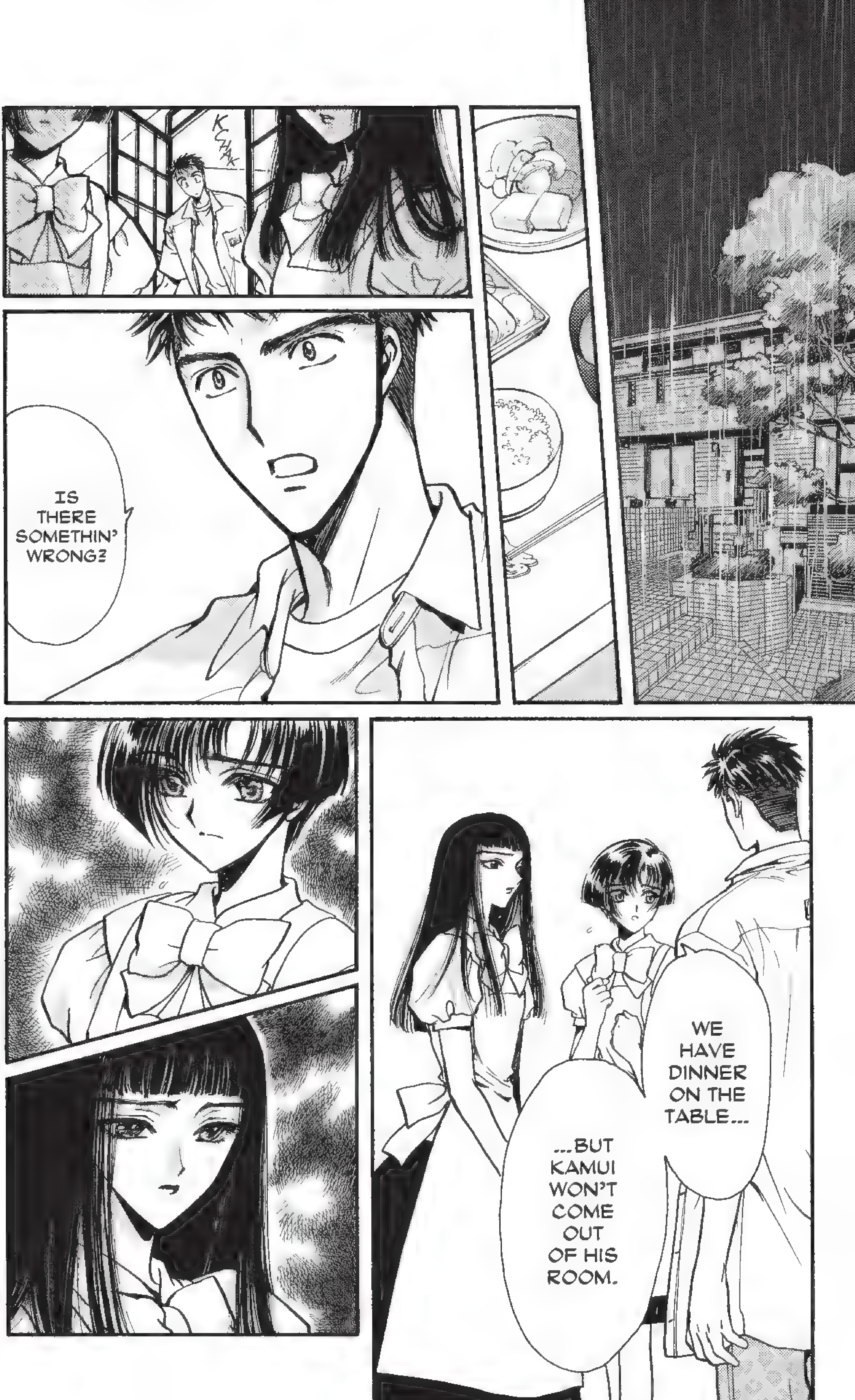
OIOI
OIOI

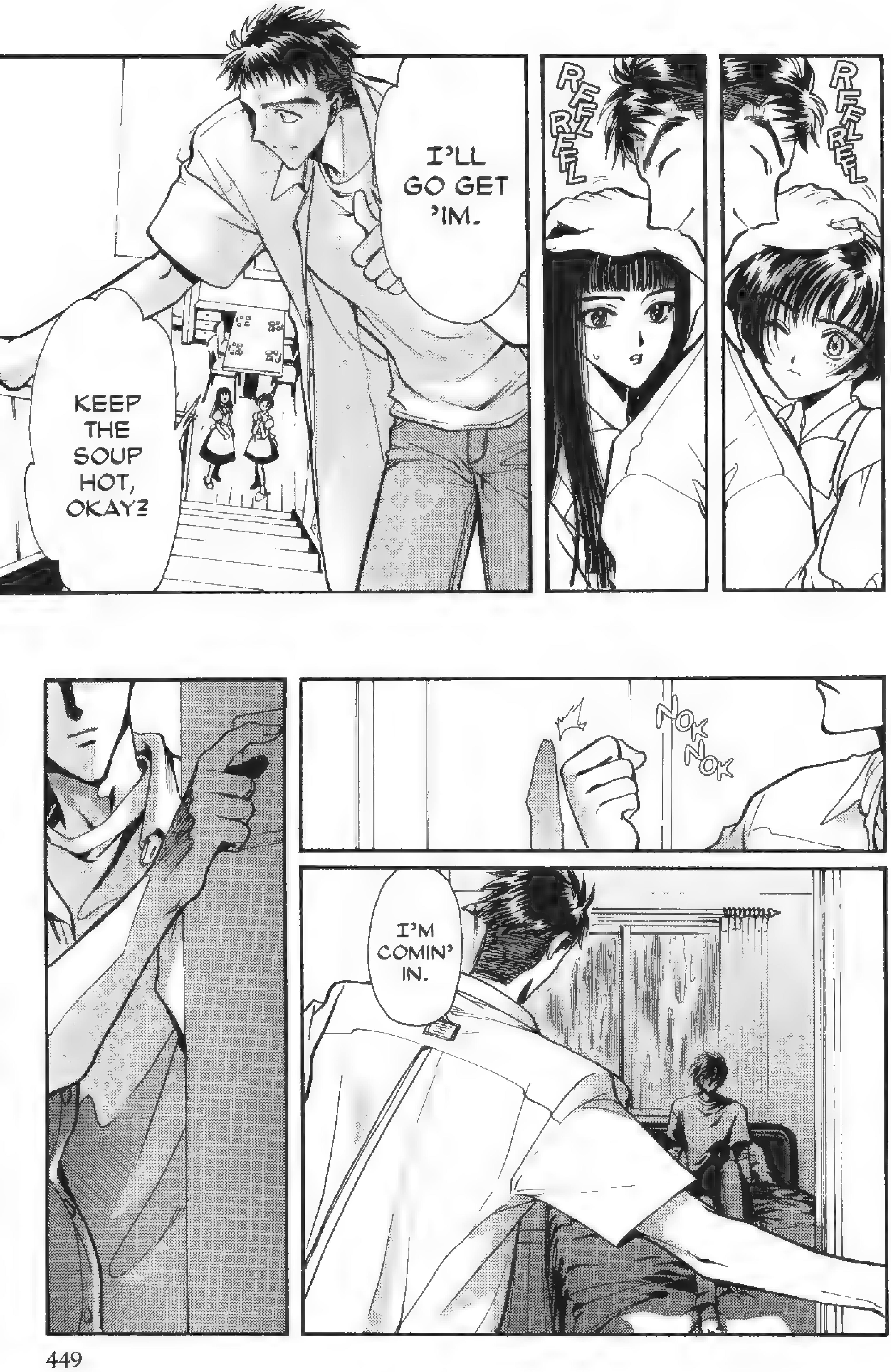

SHF
SEVEN

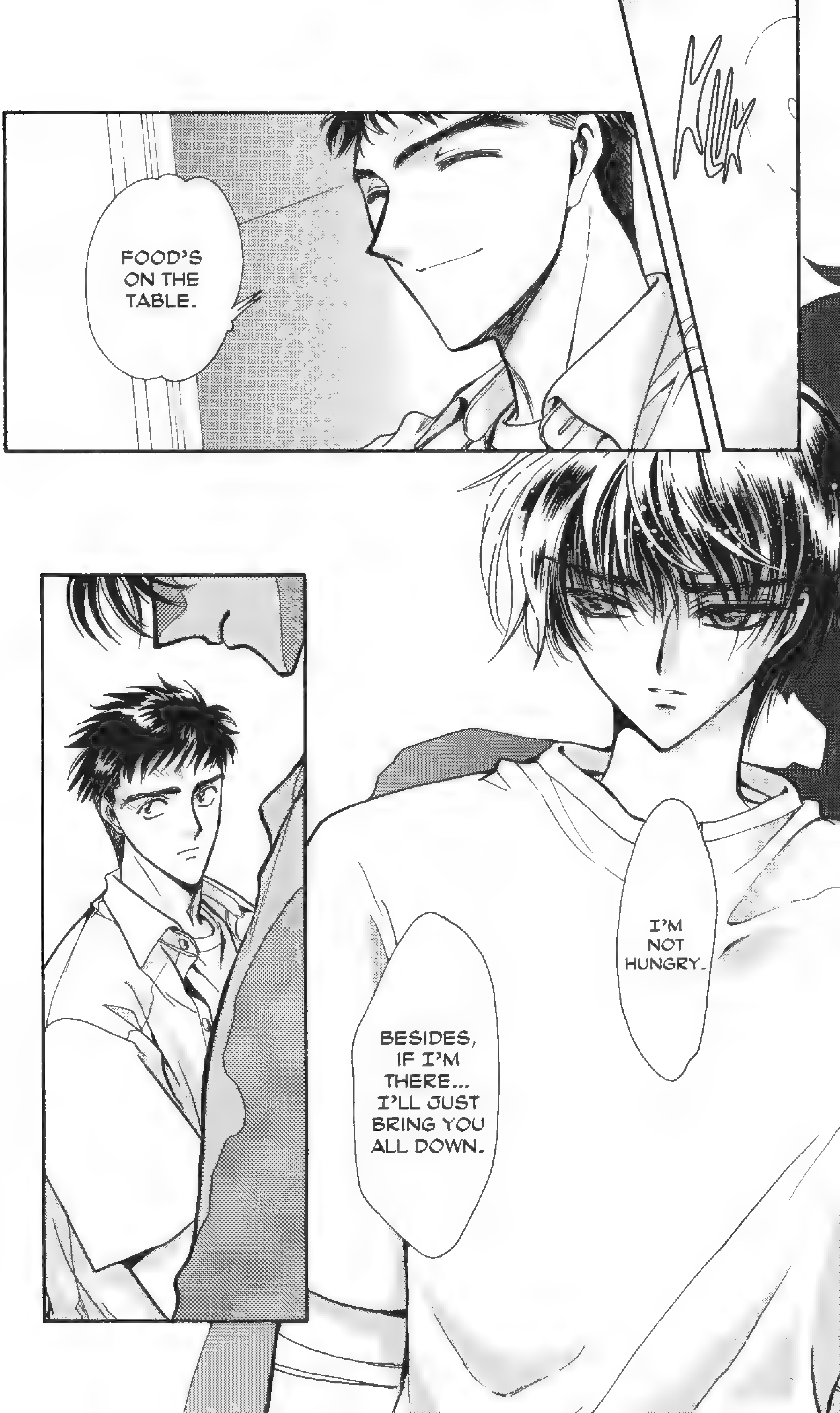

I WAS...
...RIGHT IN FRONT OF HIM.

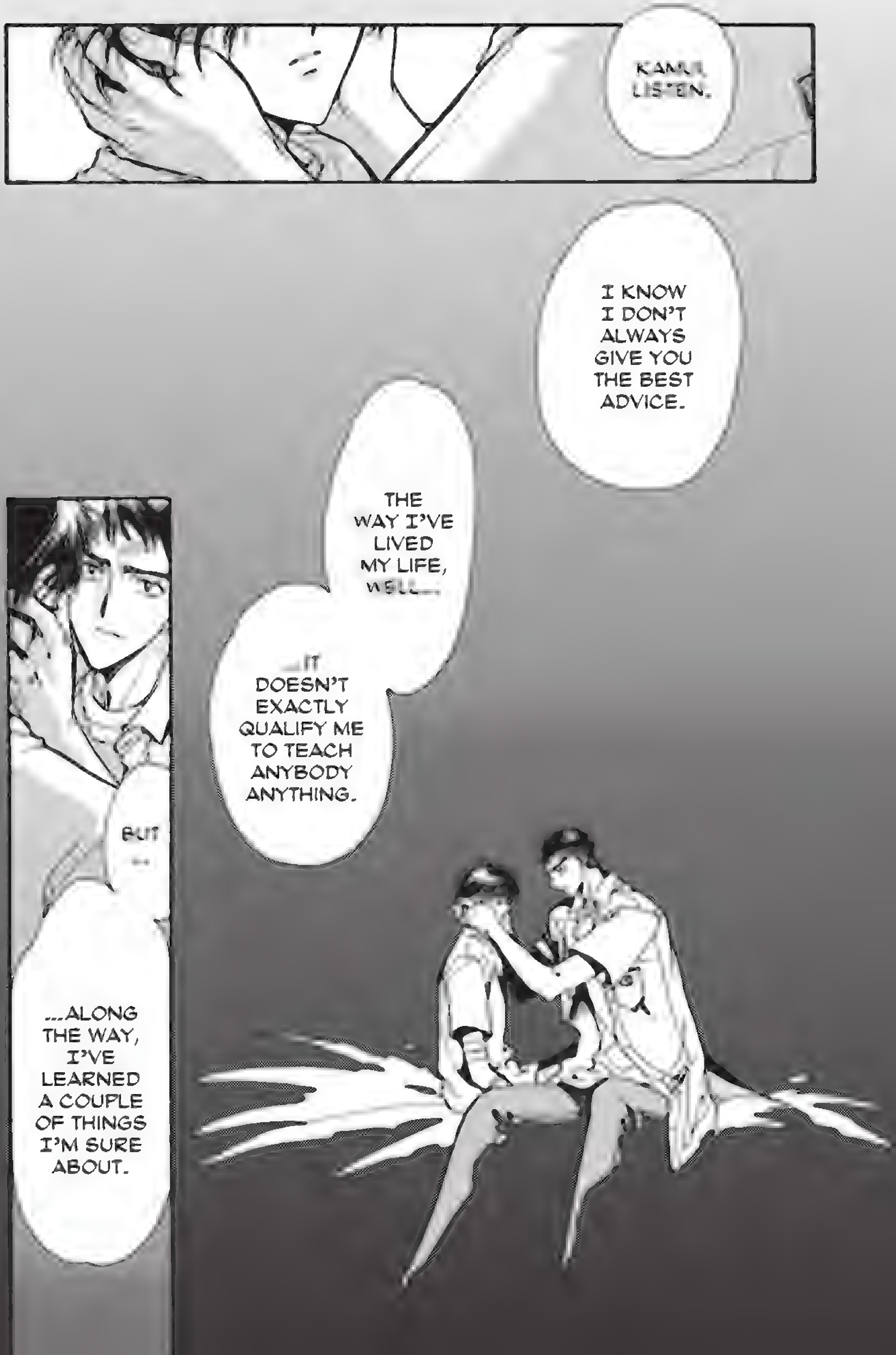
AND ONCE AGAIN I COULDN'T DO A THING.

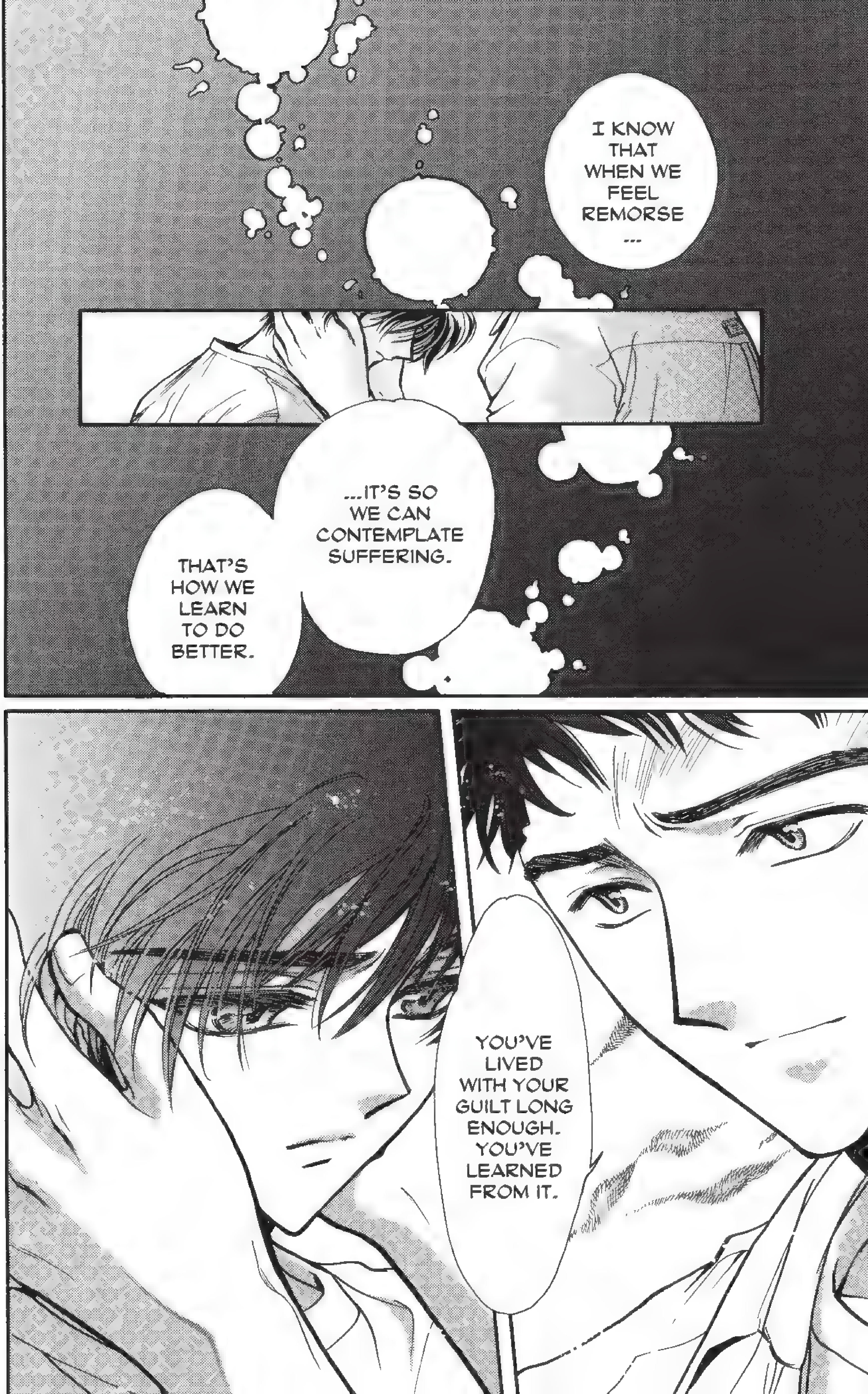


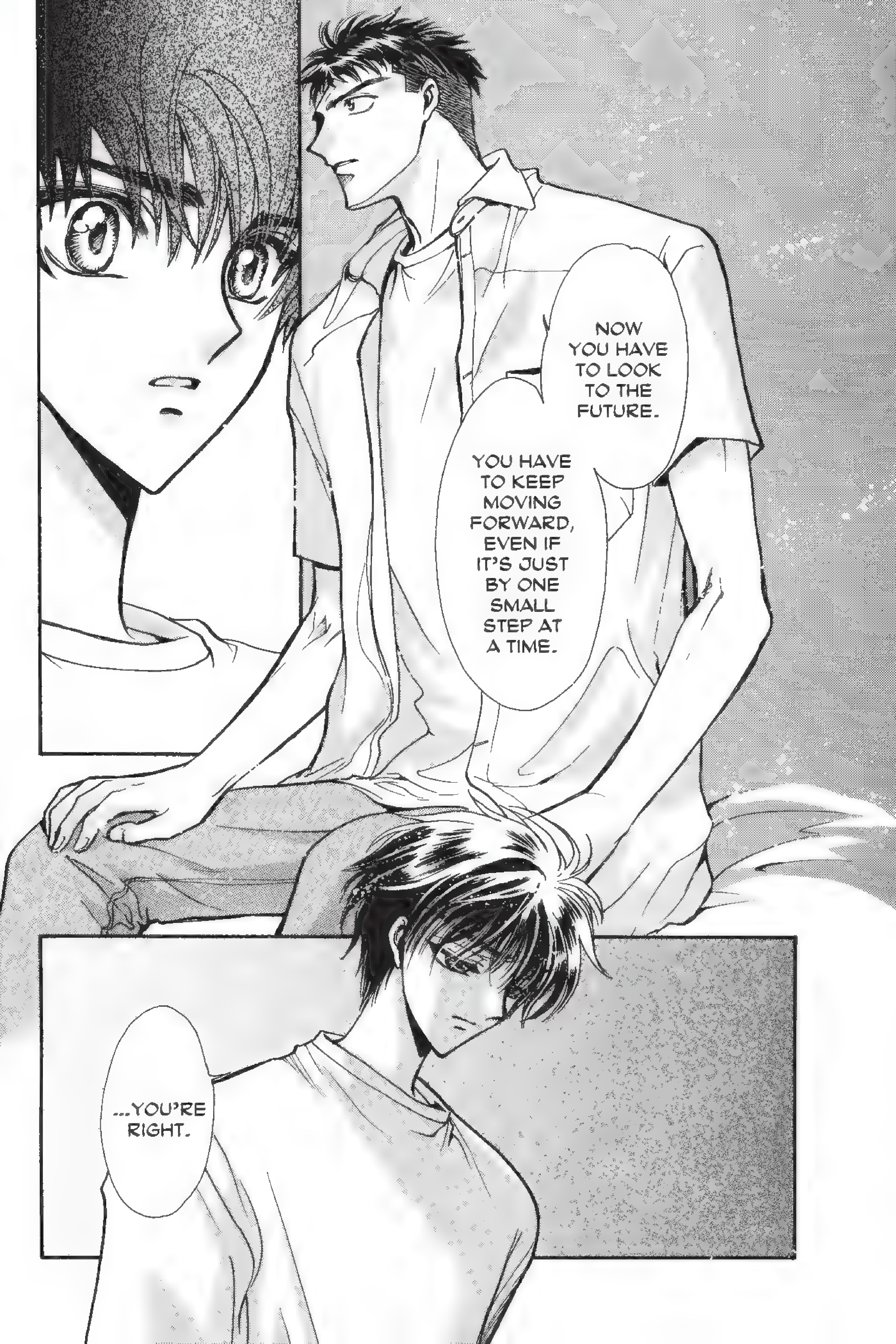

K-CHAK
IS THERE SOMETHIN' WRONG?
WE HAVE DINNER ON THE TABLE...
...BUT KAMUI WON'T COME OUT OF HIS ROOM.

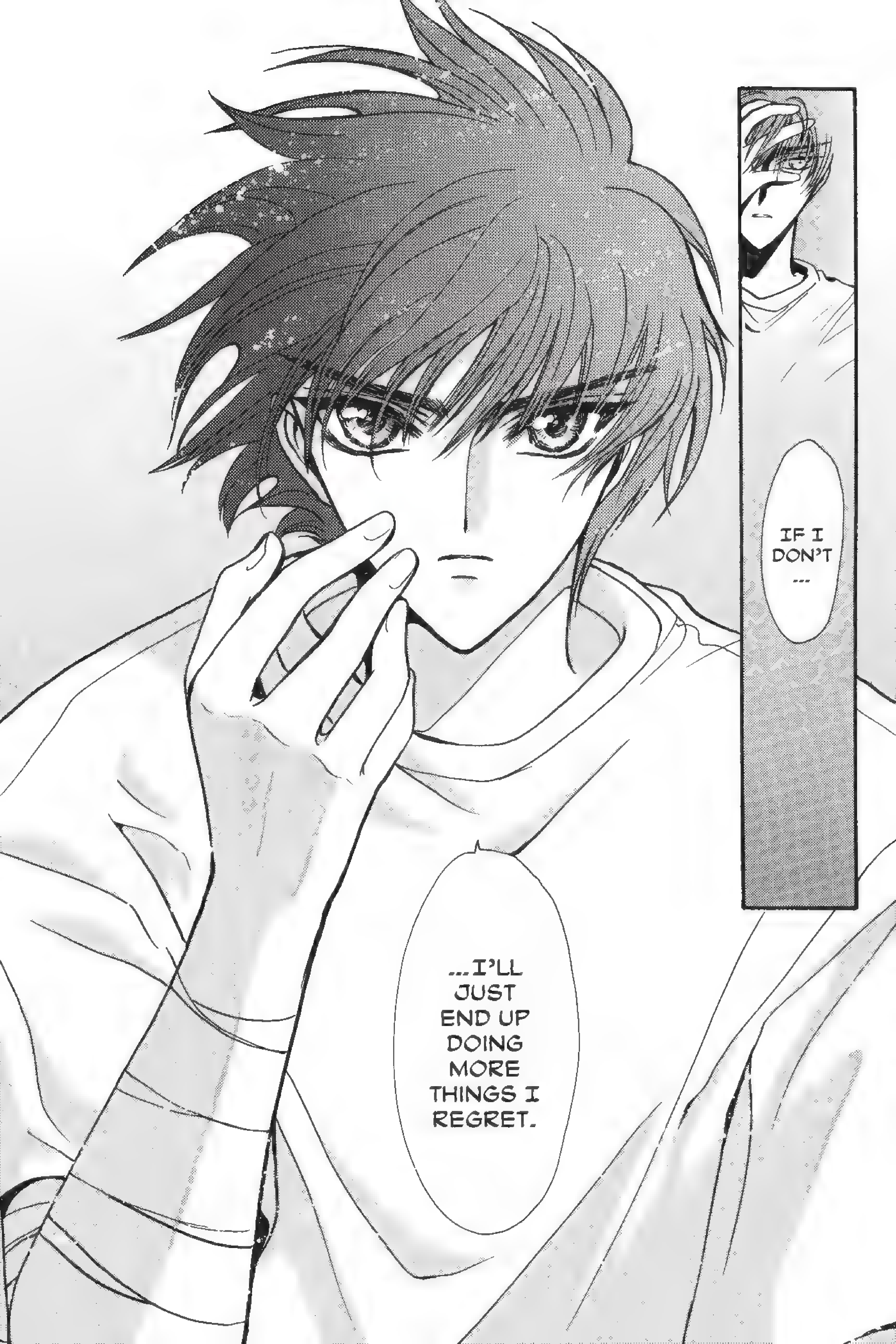

RFFL RFFL
RFFL RFFL
I'LL GO GET 'IM.
KEEP THE SOUP HOT, OKAY?
NOK NOK
I'M COMIN' IN.

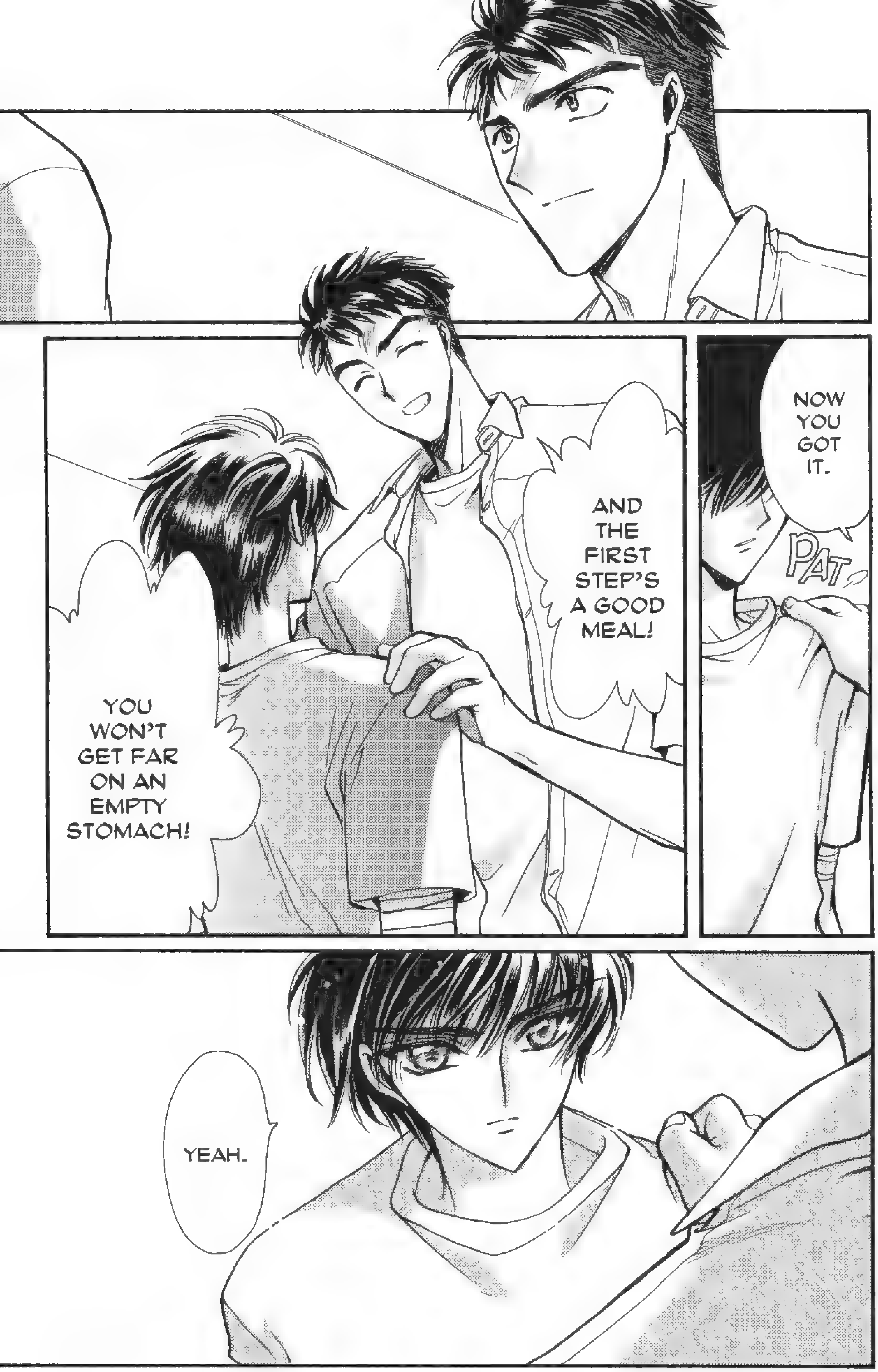

KLIK
FOOD'S ON THE TABLE.
I'M NOT HUNGRY.
BESIDES, IF I'M THERE... I'LL JUST BRING YOU ALL DOWN.

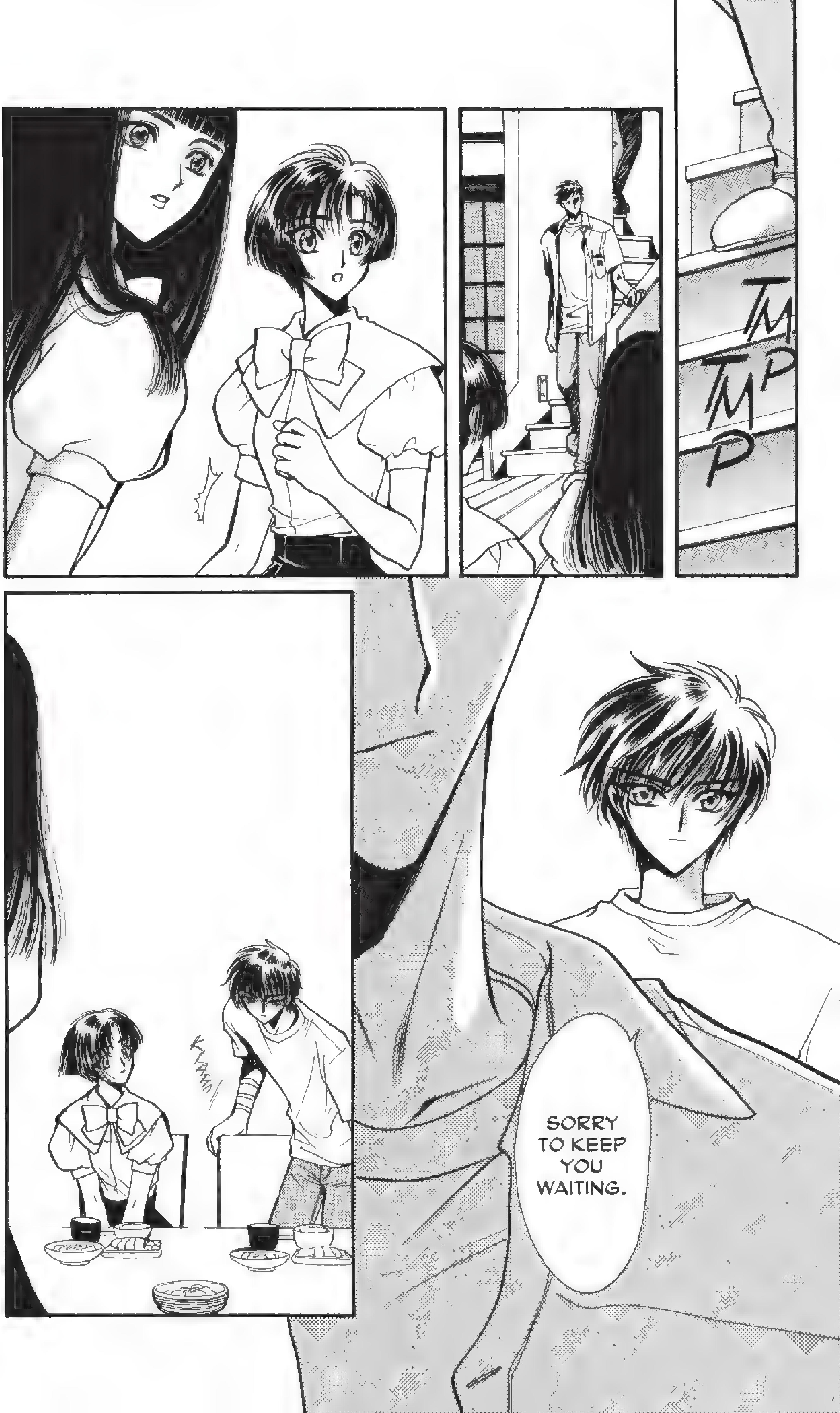

KAMUI, LISTEN.
I KNOW I DON'T ALWAYS GIVE YOU THE BEST ADVICE.
THE WAY I'VE LIVED MY LIFE, WELL...
...IT DOESN'T EXACTLY QUALIFY ME TO TEACH ANYBODY ANYTHING.
BUT...
...ALONG THE WAY, I'VE LEARNED A COUPLE OF THINGS I'M SURE ABOUT.

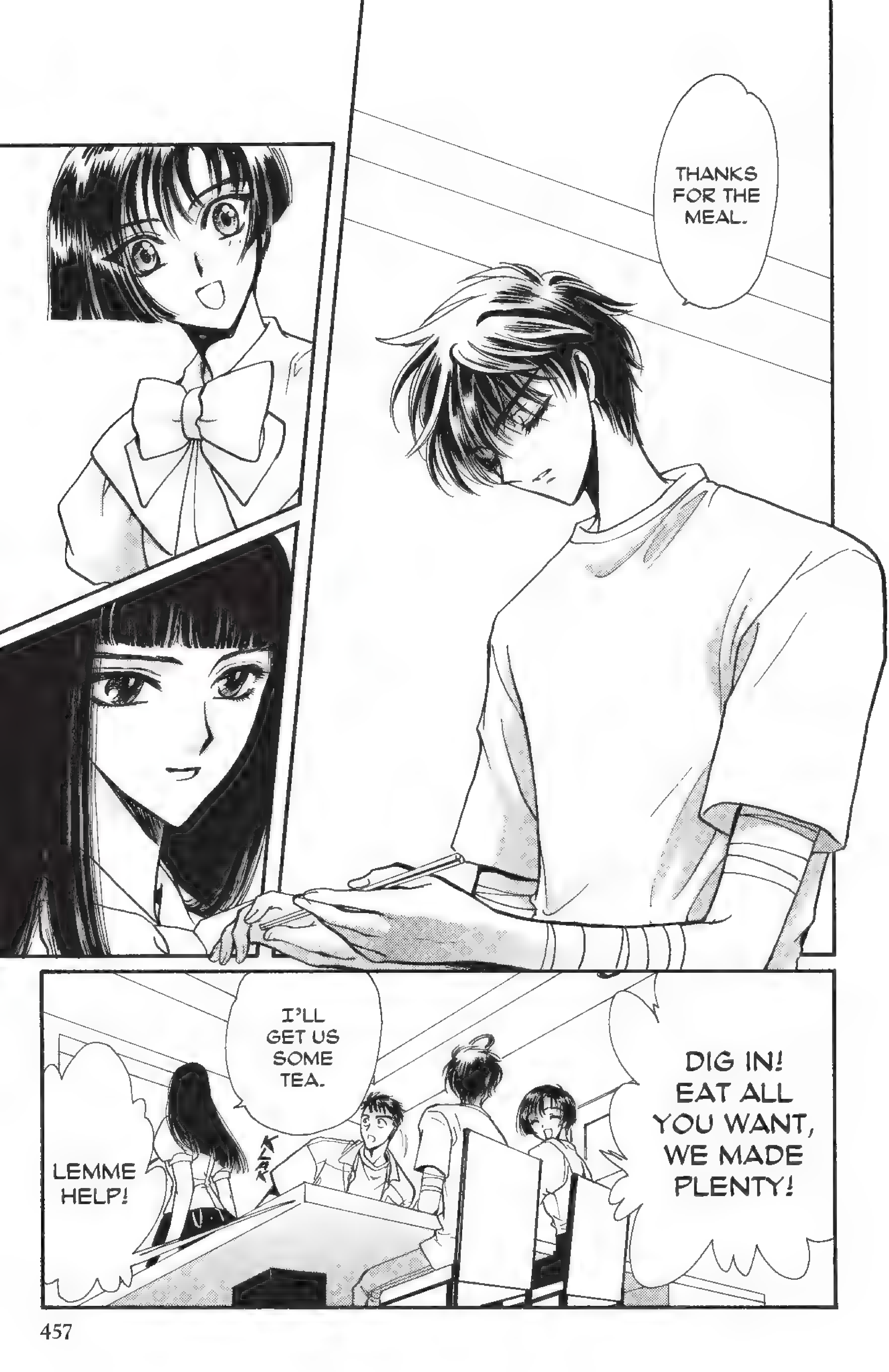

I KNOW THAT WHEN WE FEEL REMORSE ...
...IT'S SO WE CAN CONTEMPLATE SUFFERING.
THAT'S HOW WE LEARN TO DO BETTER.
YOU'VE LIVED WITH YOUR GUILT LONG ENOUGH. YOU'VE LEARNED FROM IT.

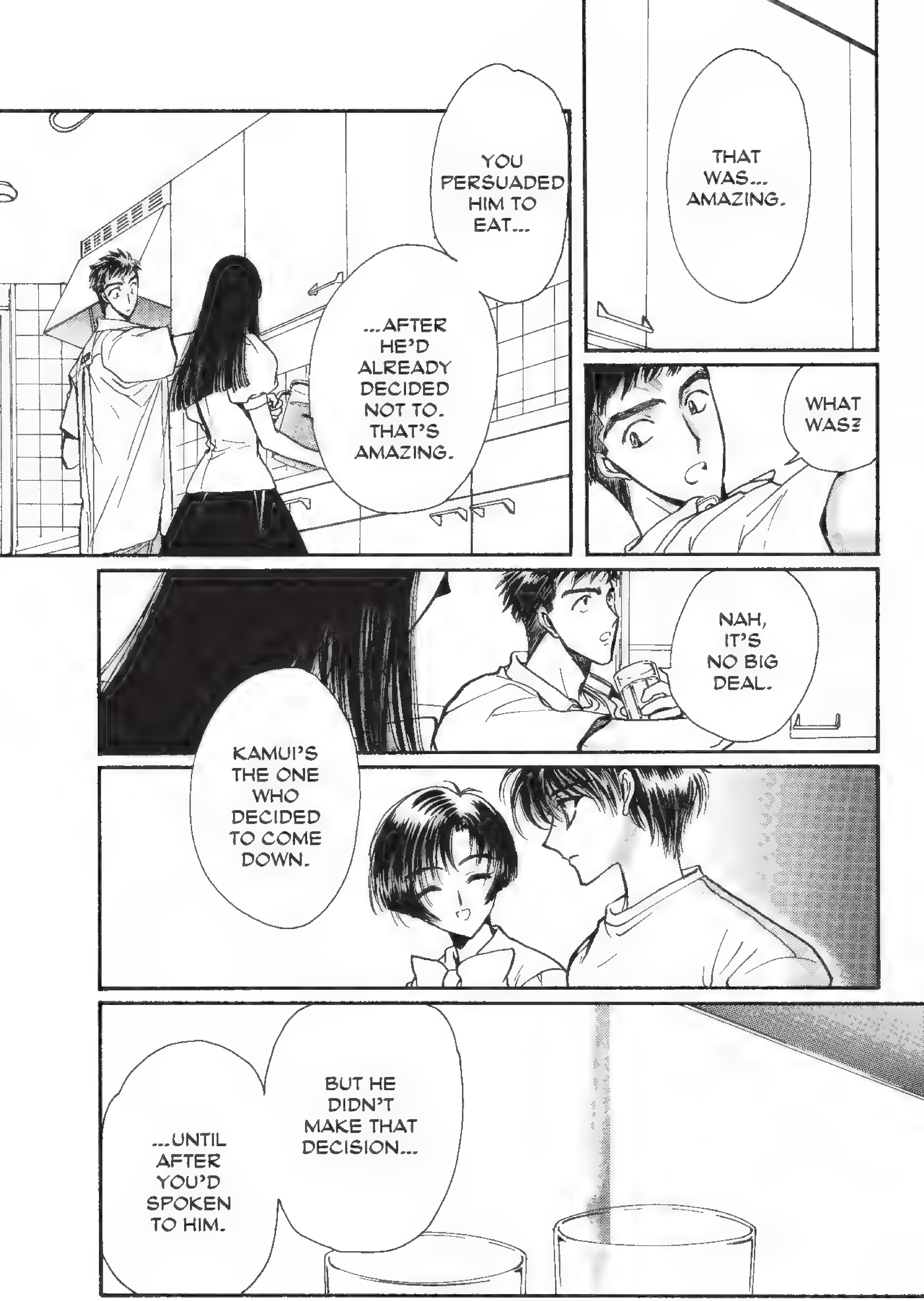

NOW YOU HAVE TO LOOK TO THE FUTURE.
YOU HAVE TO KEEP MOVING FORWARD, EVEN IF IT'S JUST BY ONE SMALL STEP AT A TIME.
...YOU'RE RIGHT.

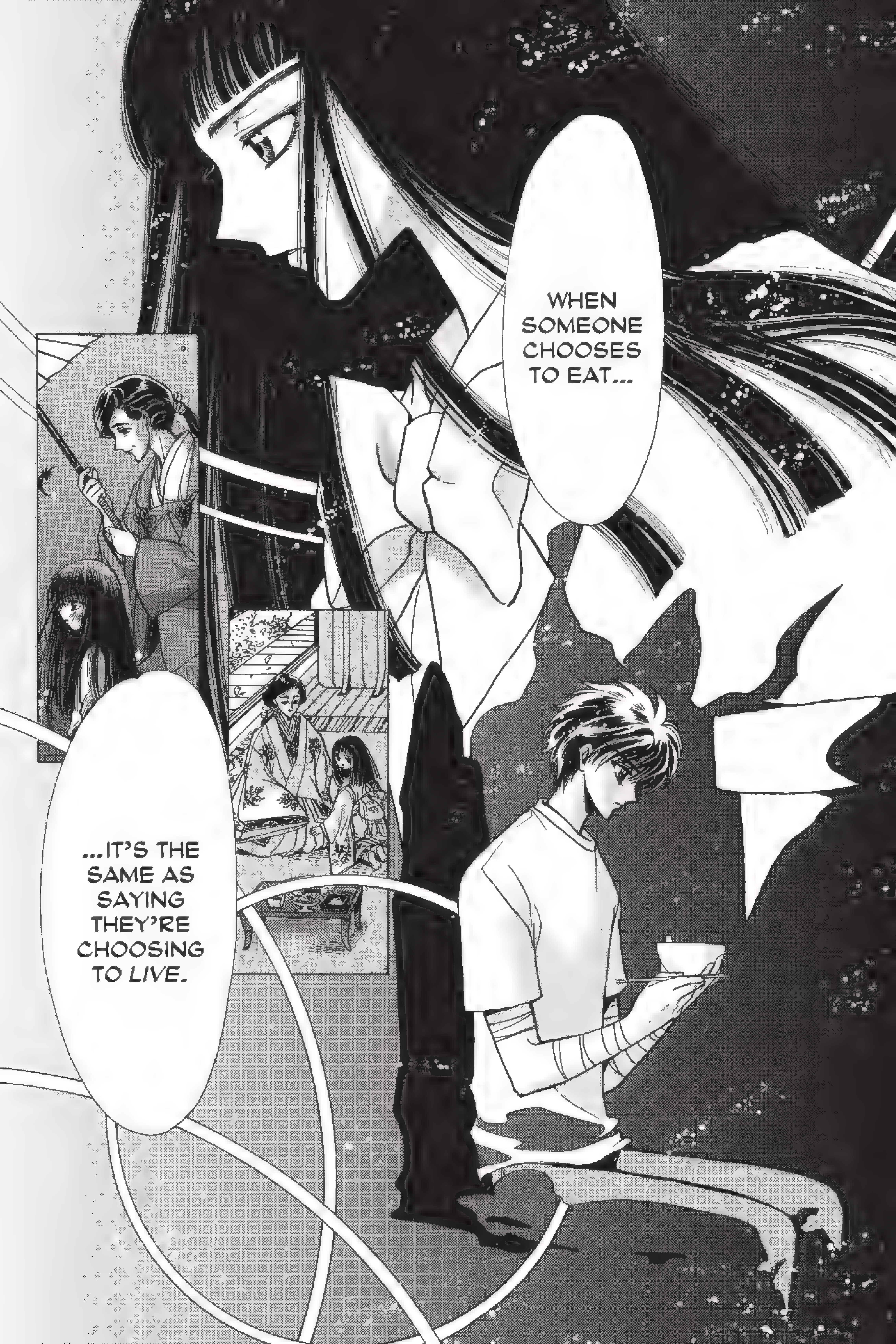

IF I DON'T ...
...I'LL JUST END UP DOING MORE THINGS I REGRET.

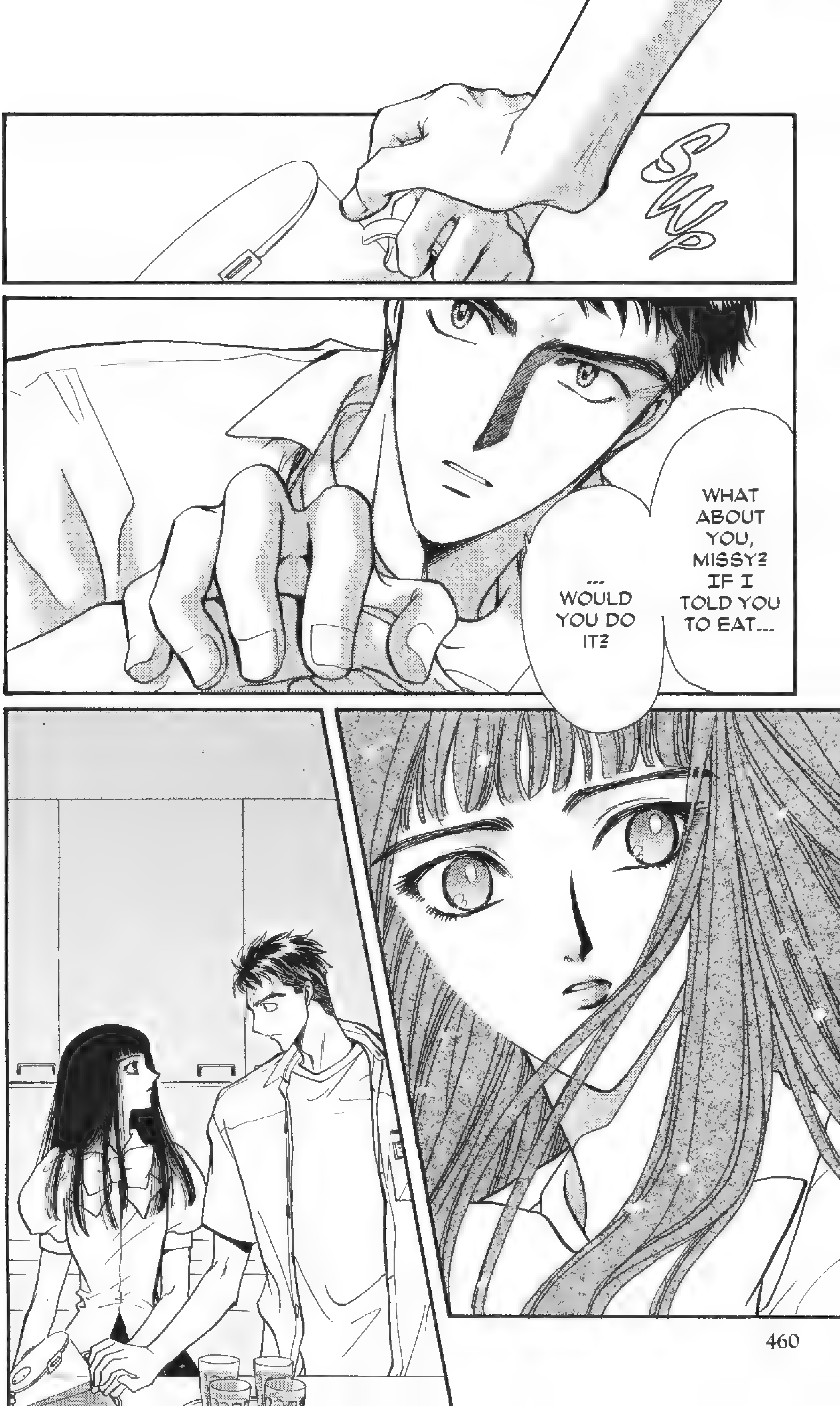

NOW YOU GOT IT.
PAT
AND THE FIRST STEP'S A GOOD MEAL!
YOU WON'T GET FAR ON AN EMPTY STOMACH!
YEAH.

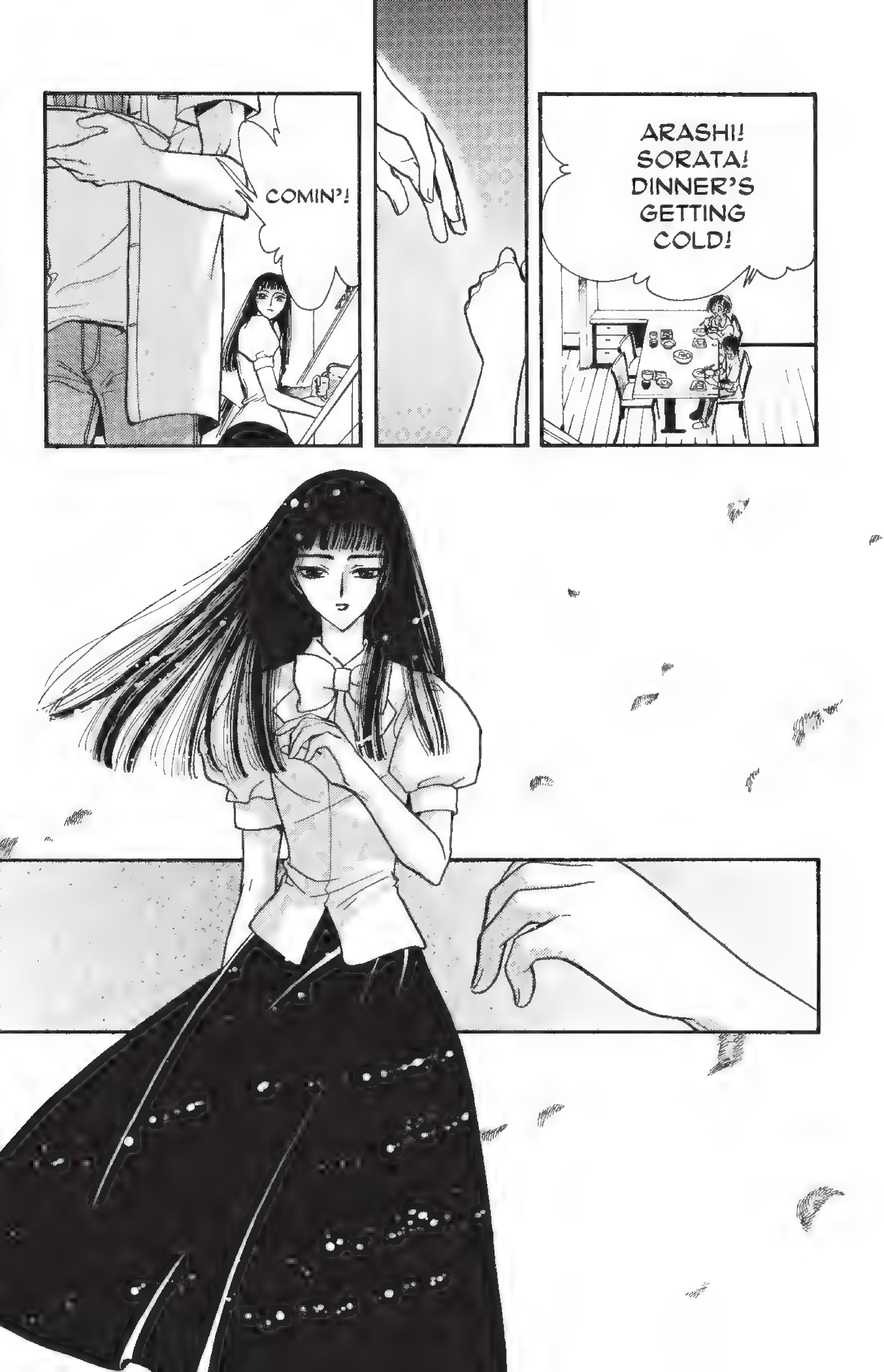

TMP TMP
KLAAA
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING.

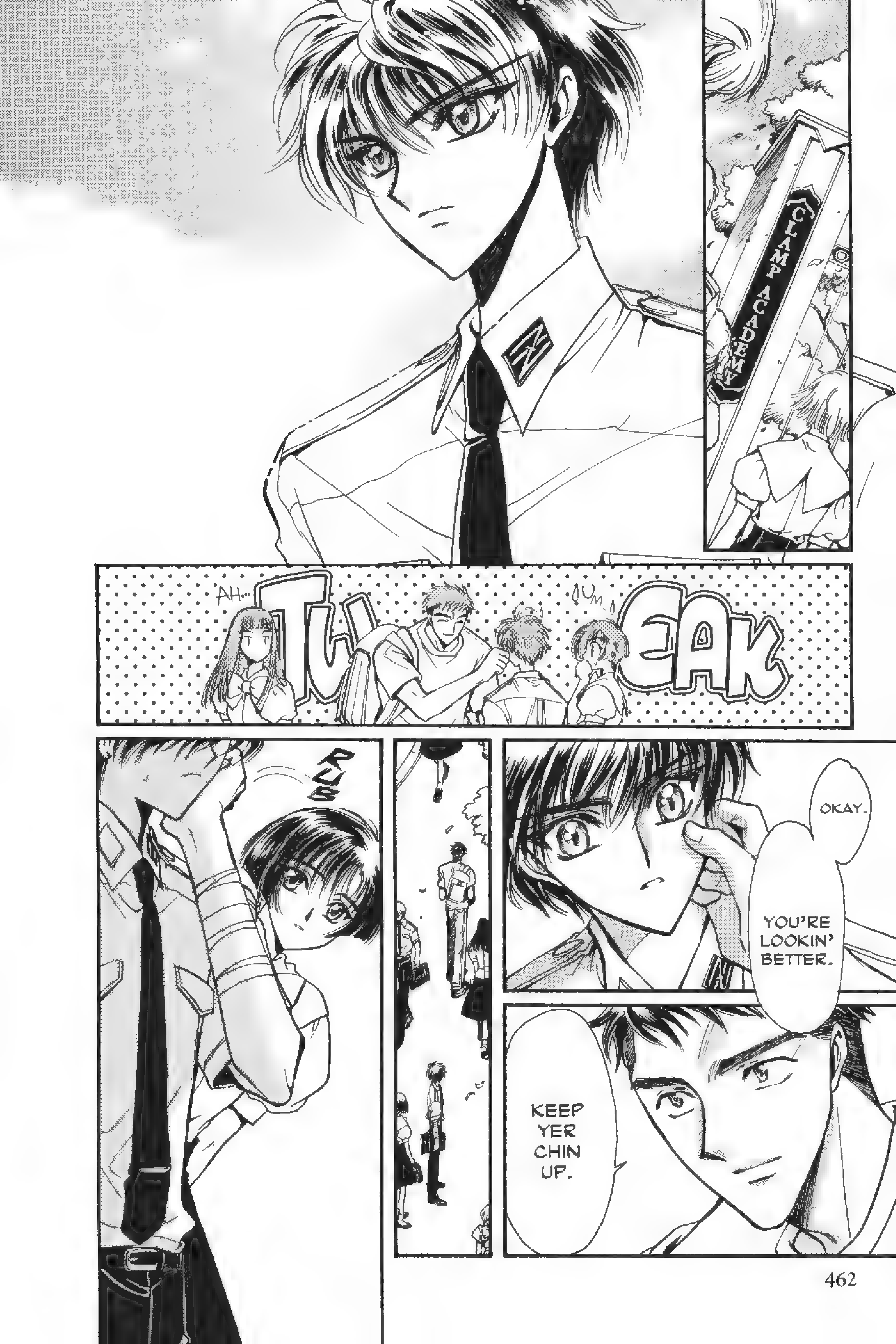

THANKS FOR THE MEAL.
DIG IN! EAT ALL YOU WANT, WE MADE PLENTY!
I'LL GET US SOME TEA.
KLAK
LEMME HELP!

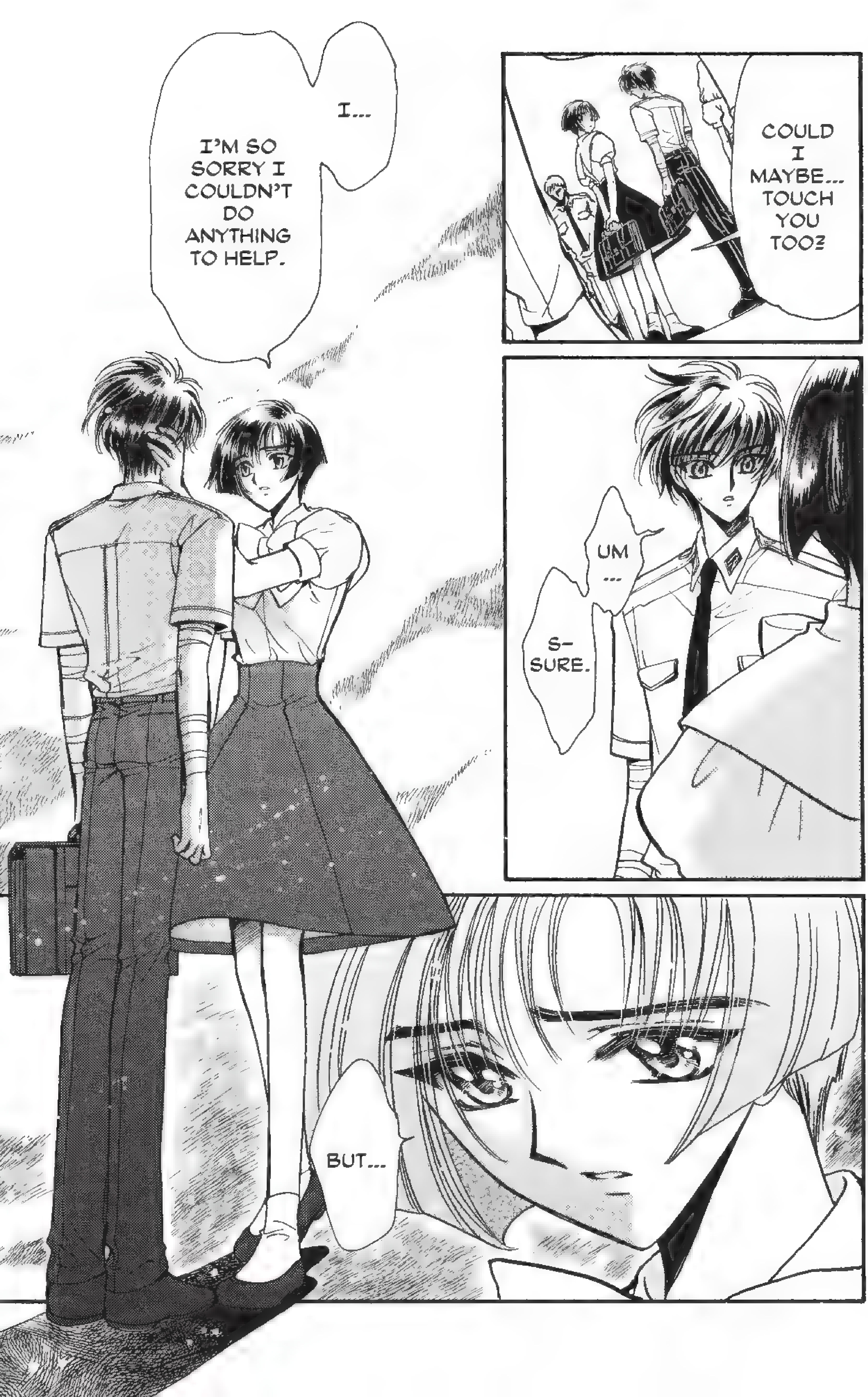

THAT WAS... AMAZING.
YOU PERSUADED HIM TO EAT...
...AFTER HE'D ALREADY DECIDED NOT TO. THAT'S AMAZING.
WHAT WAS?
NAH, IT'S NO BIG DEAL.
KAMUI'S THE ONE WHO DECIDED TO COME DOWN.
BUT HE DIDN'T MAKE THAT DECISION...
...UNTIL AFTER YOU'D SPOKEN TO HIM.

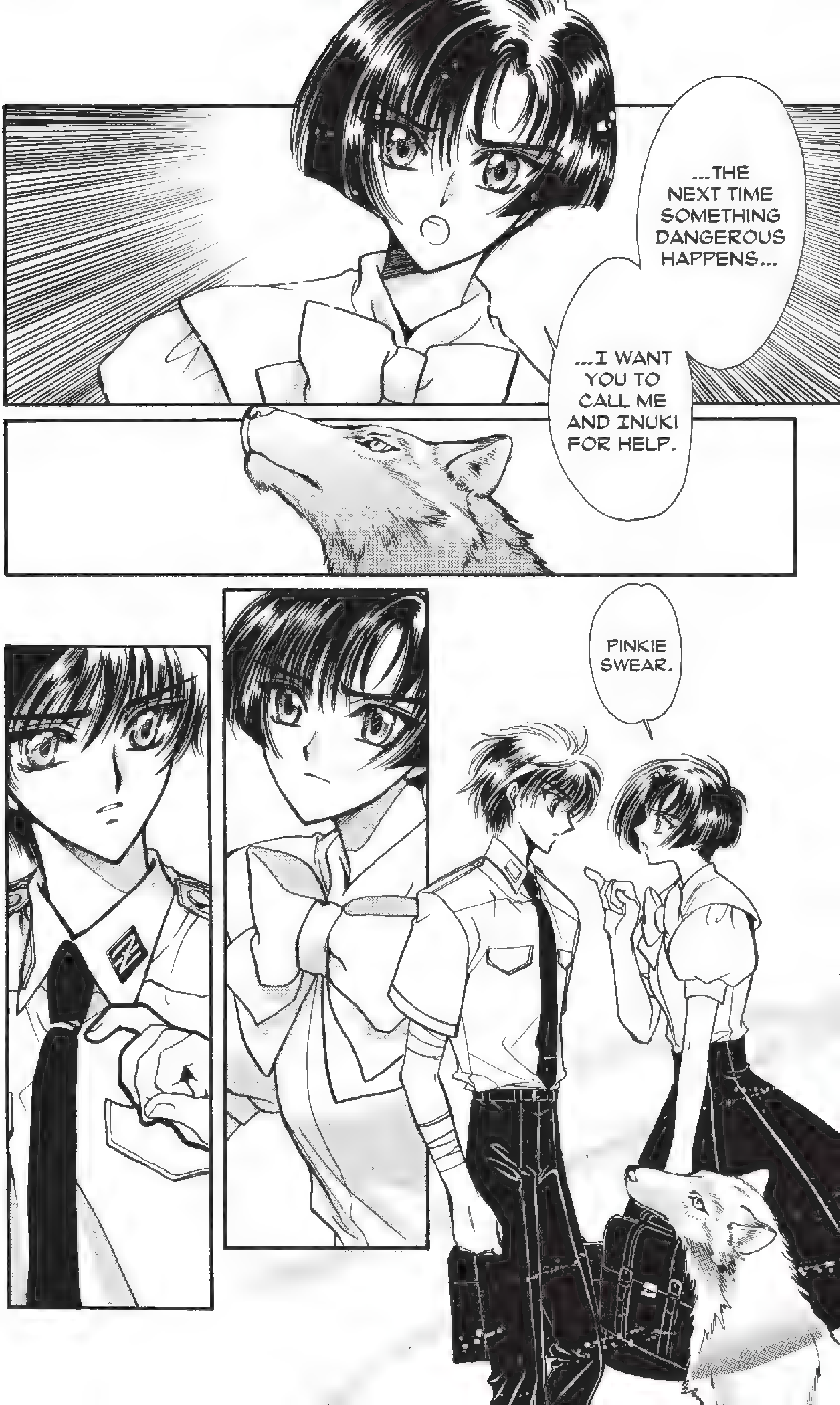

WHEN SOMEONE CHOOSES TO EAT...
...IT'S THE SAME AS SAYING THEY'RE CHOOSING TO *LIVE*.

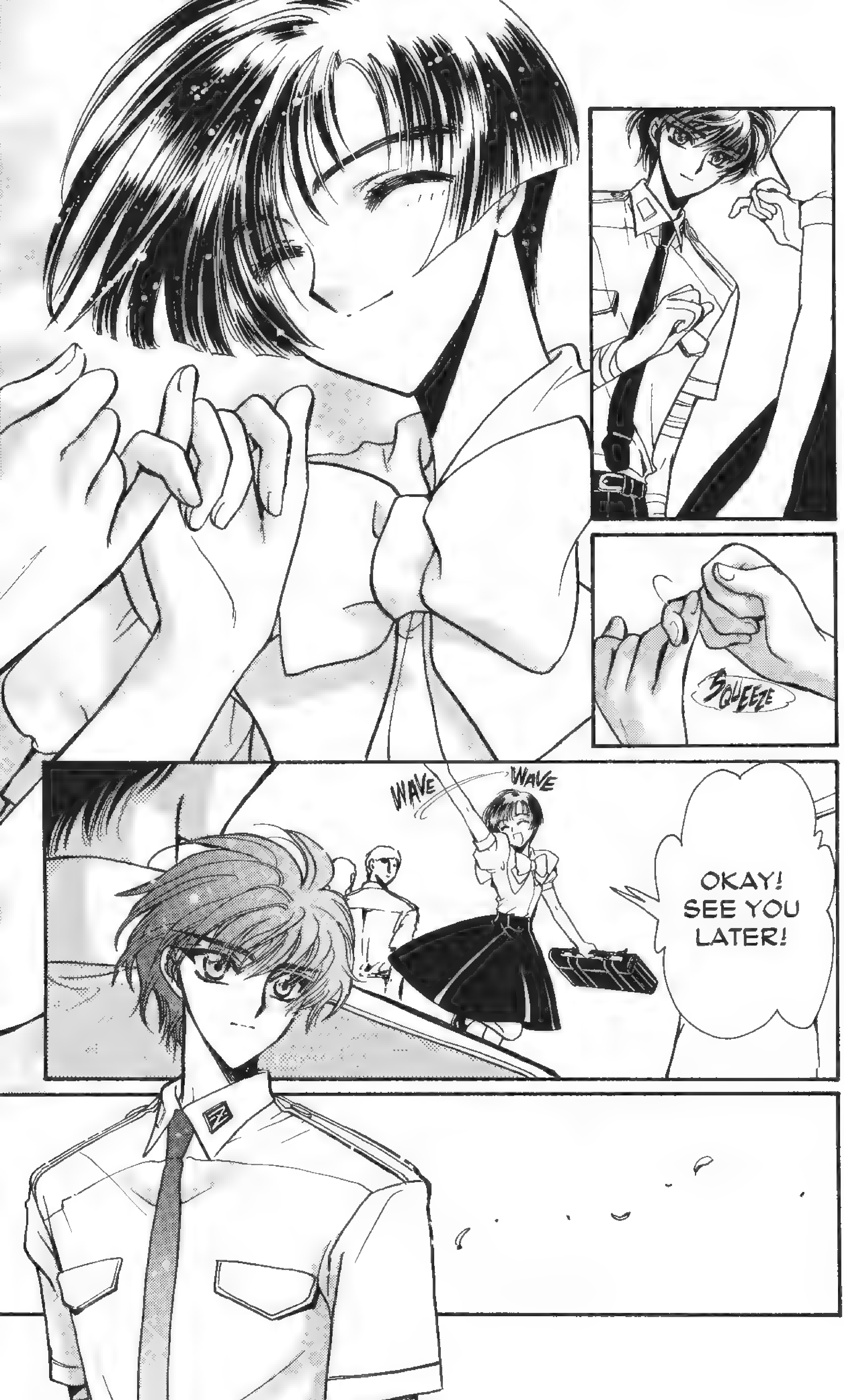

SWIP
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MISSY? IF I TOLD YOU TO EAT...
...WOULD YOU DO IT?

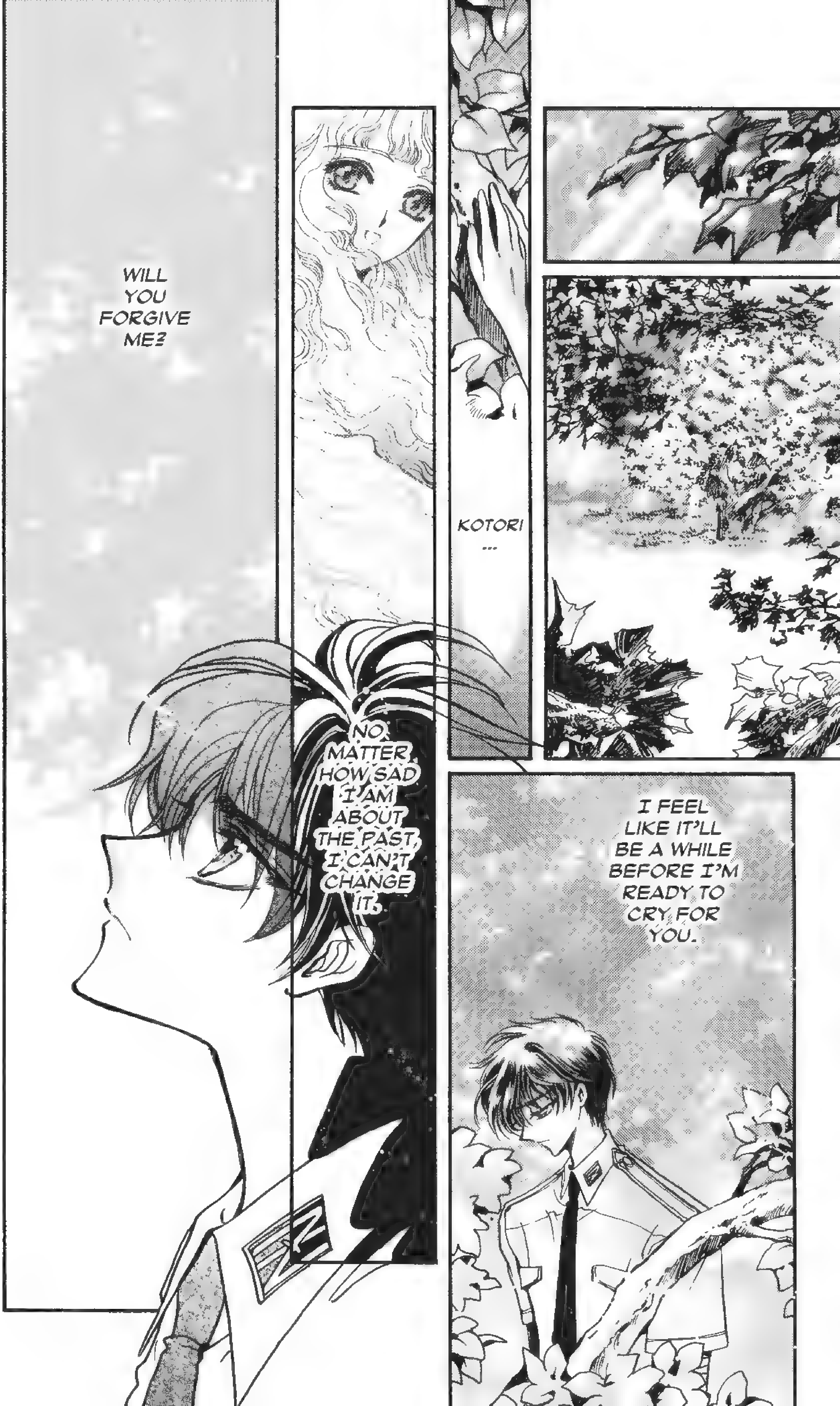

ARASHI! SORATA! DINNER'S GETTING COLD!
COMIN'!

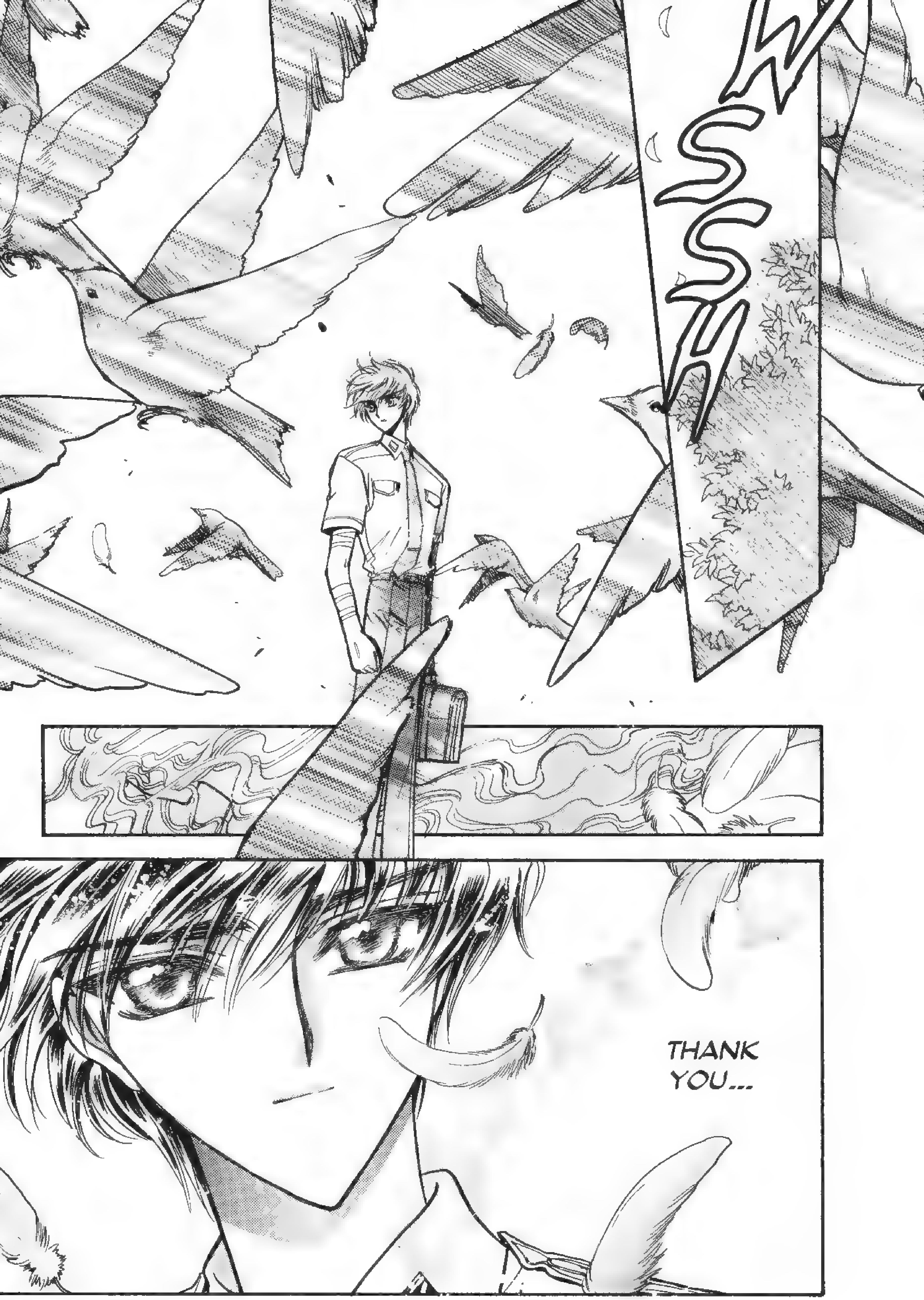

CLAMP ACADEMY
ŮM
TW
EAK
AH...
OKAY.
YOU'RE LOOKIN' BETTER.
KEEP YER CHIN UP.
RUB

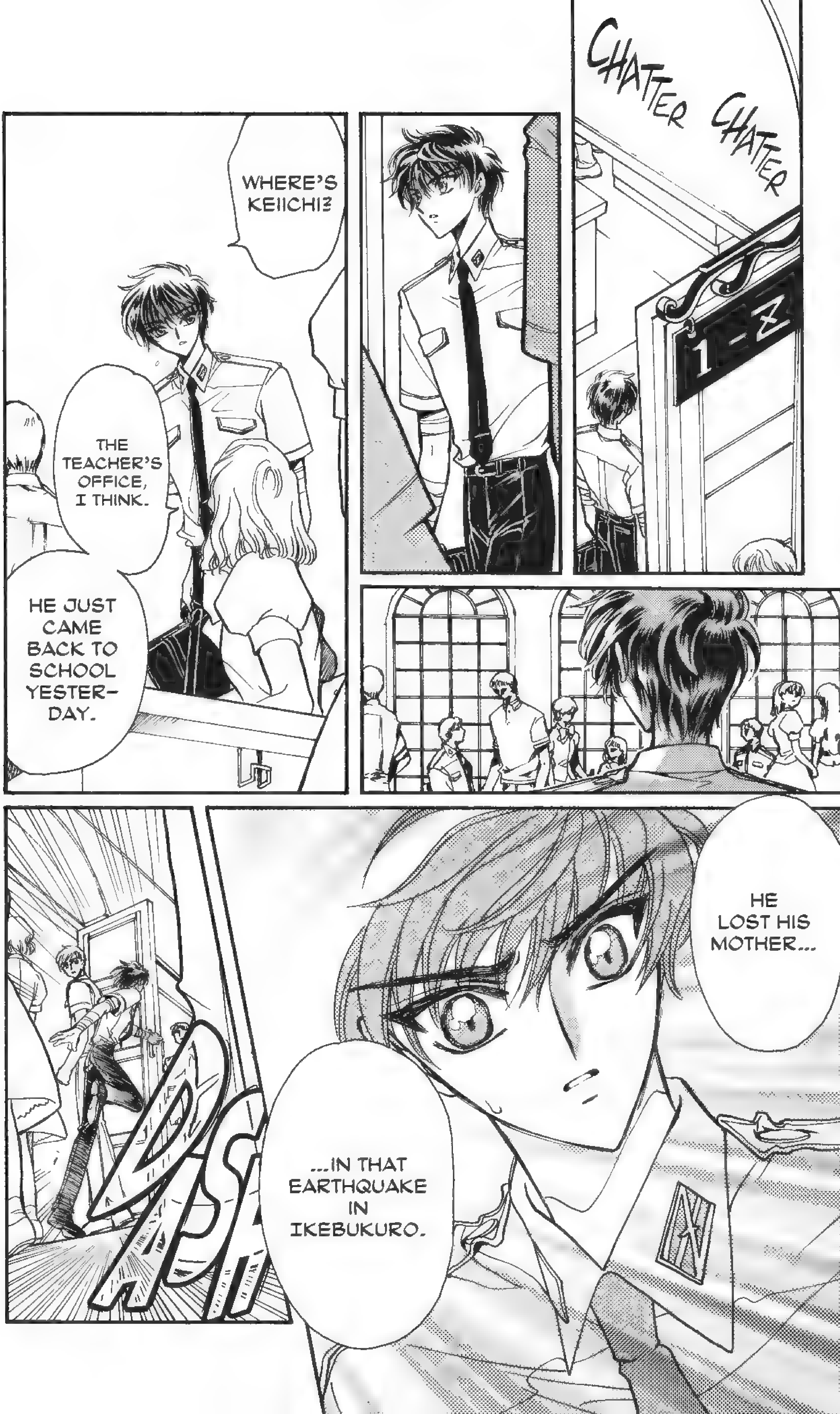

COULD I MAYBE... TOUCH YOU TOO?
UM ...
S-SURE.
I...
I'M SO SORRY I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP.
BUT...

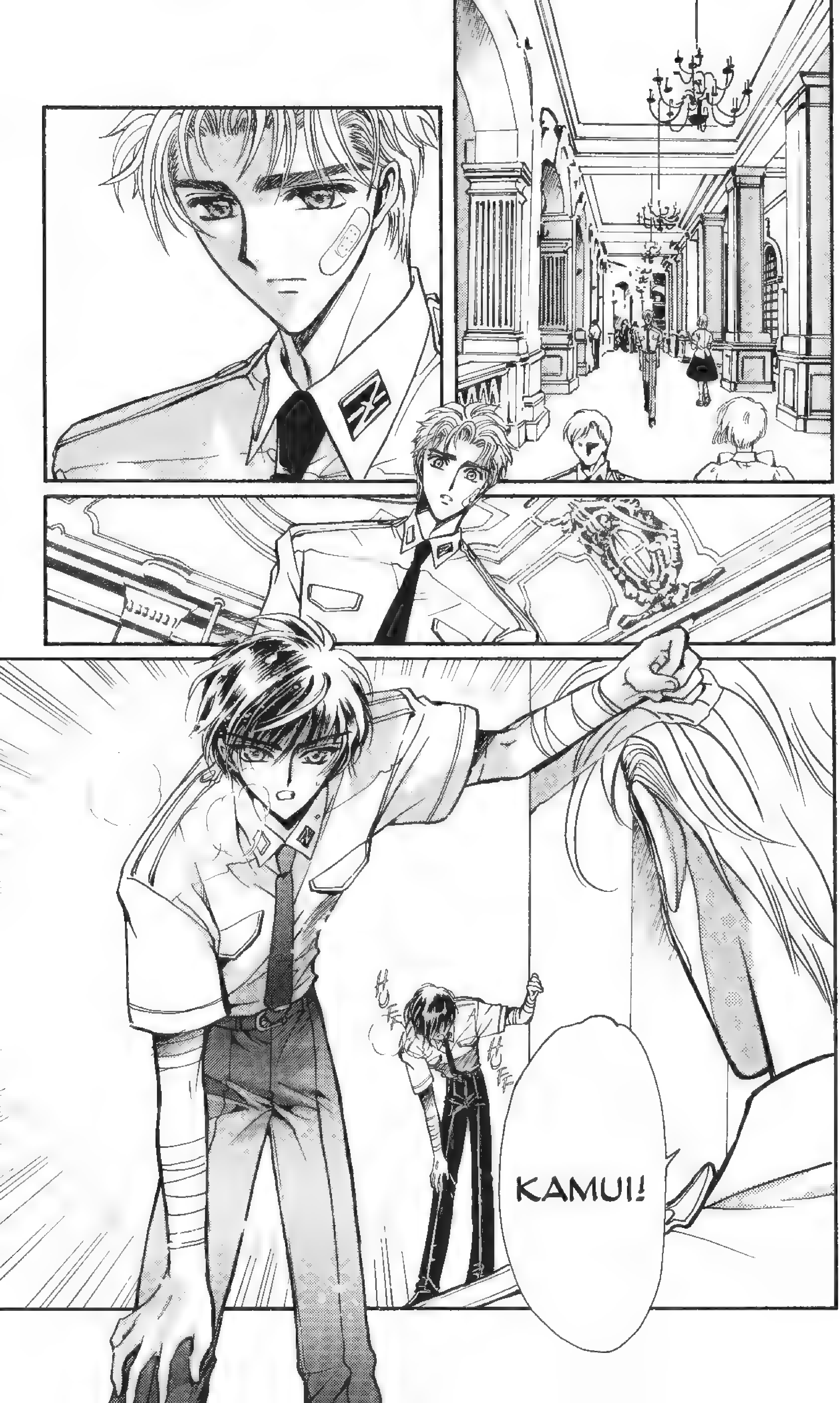

...THE NEXT TIME SOMETHING DANGEROUS HAPPENS...
...I WANT YOU TO CALL ME AND INUKI FOR HELP.
PINKIE SWEAR.

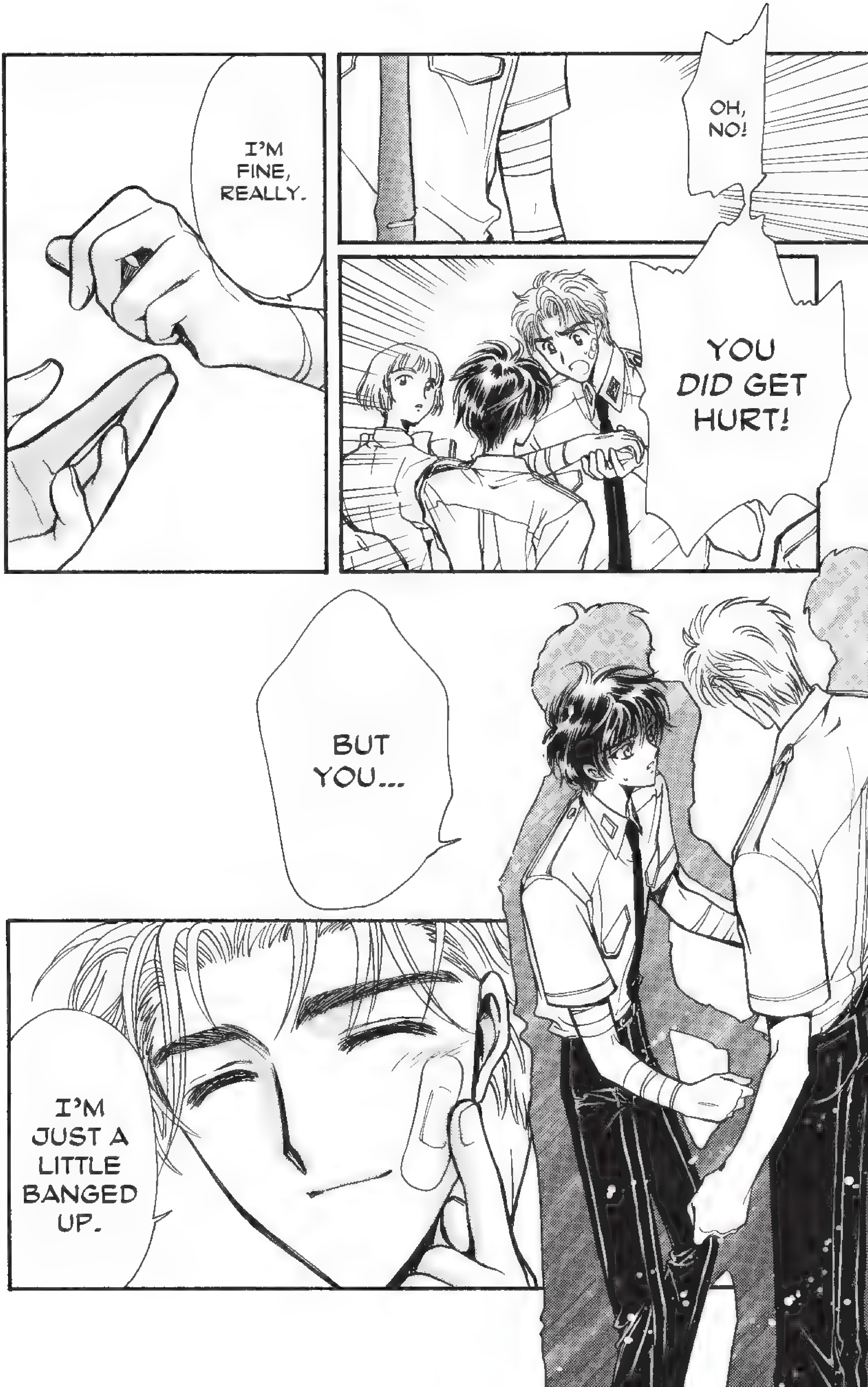

SQUEEZE
WAVE
WAVE
OKAY! SEE YOU LATER!

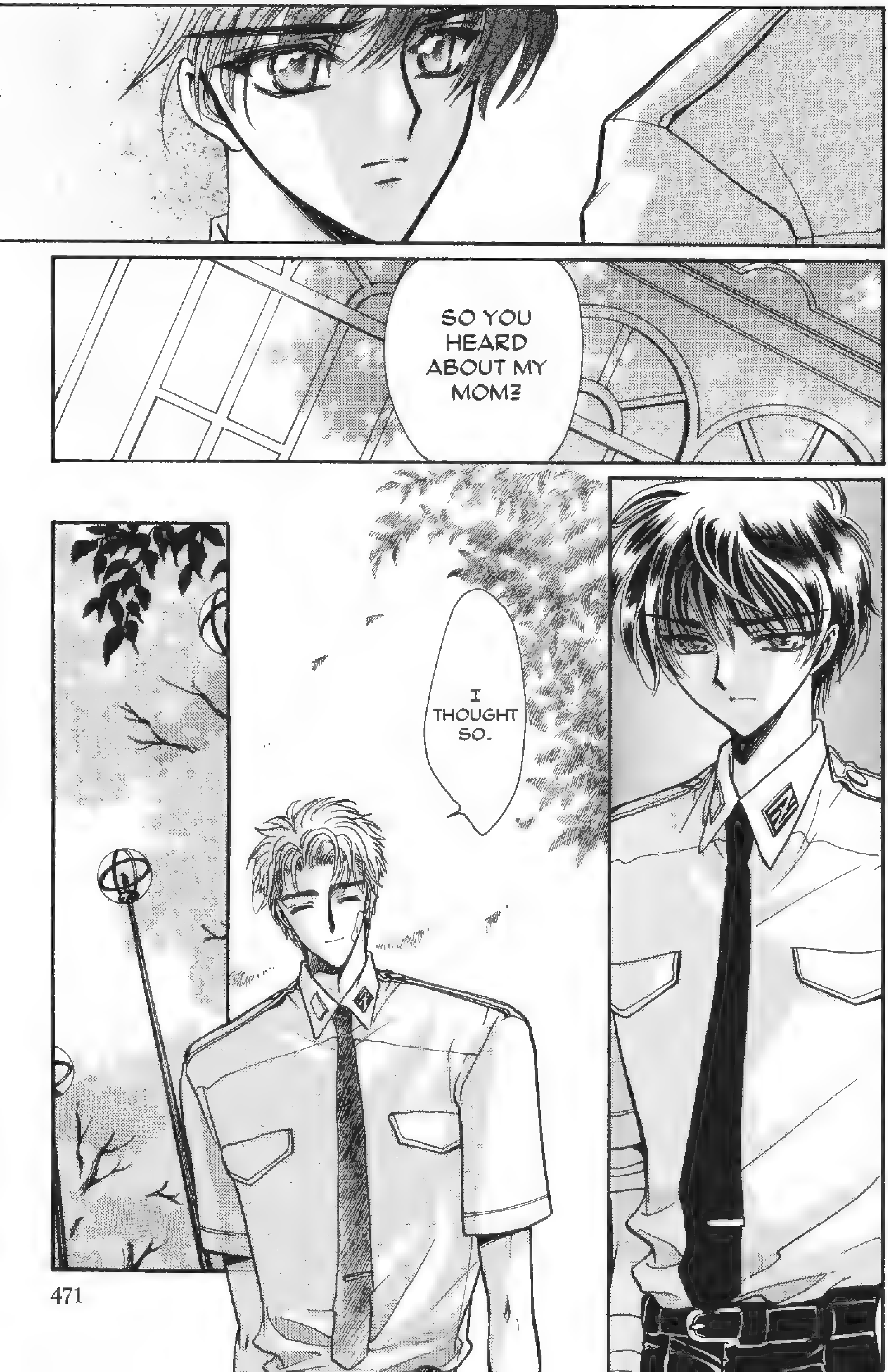

KOTORI ...
WILL YOU FORGIVE ME?
NO MATTER HOW SAD I AM ABOUT THE PAST, I CAN'T CHANGE IT.
I FEEL LIKE IT'LL BE A WHILE BEFORE I'M READY TO CRY FOR YOU.

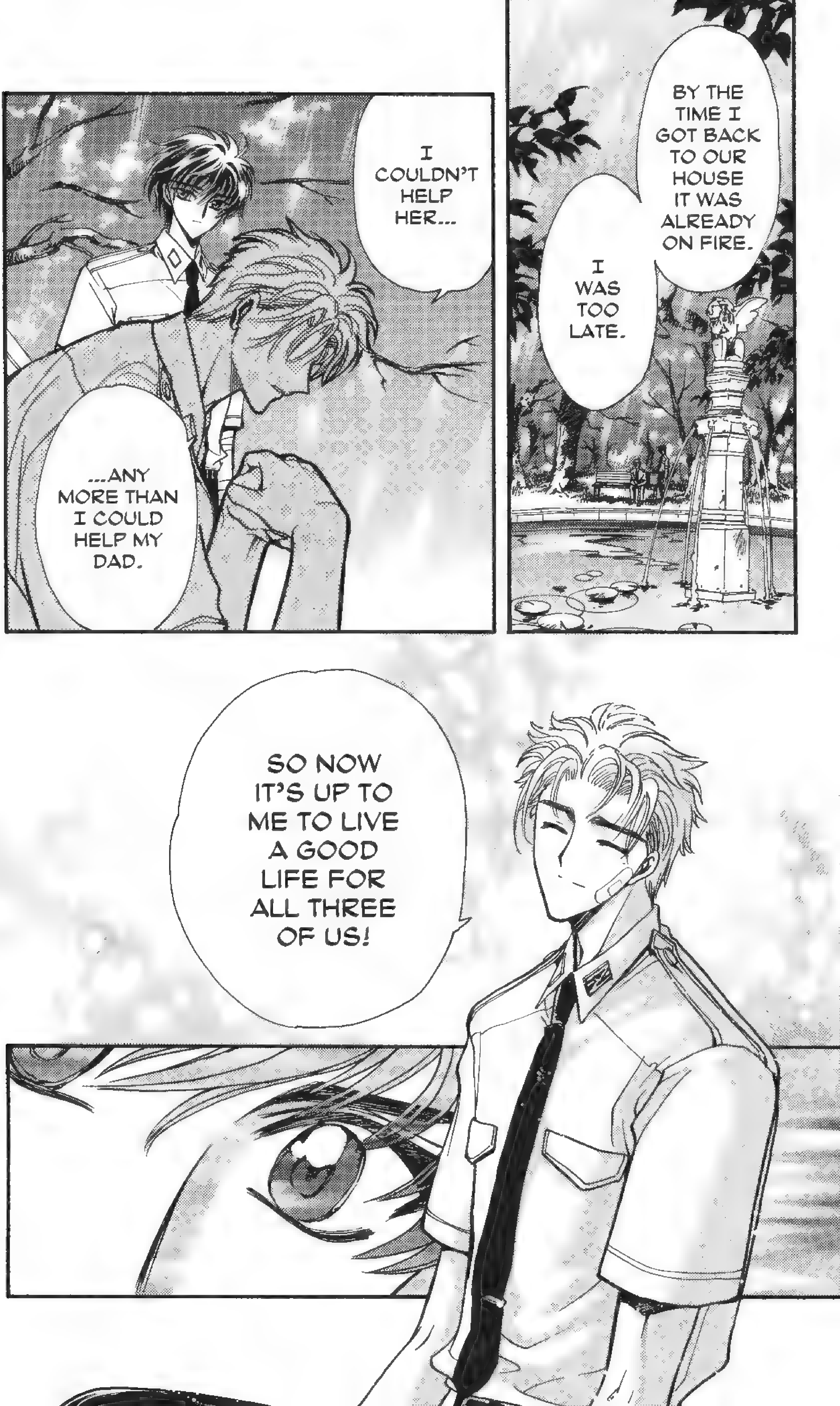

WSSH
THANK YOU...

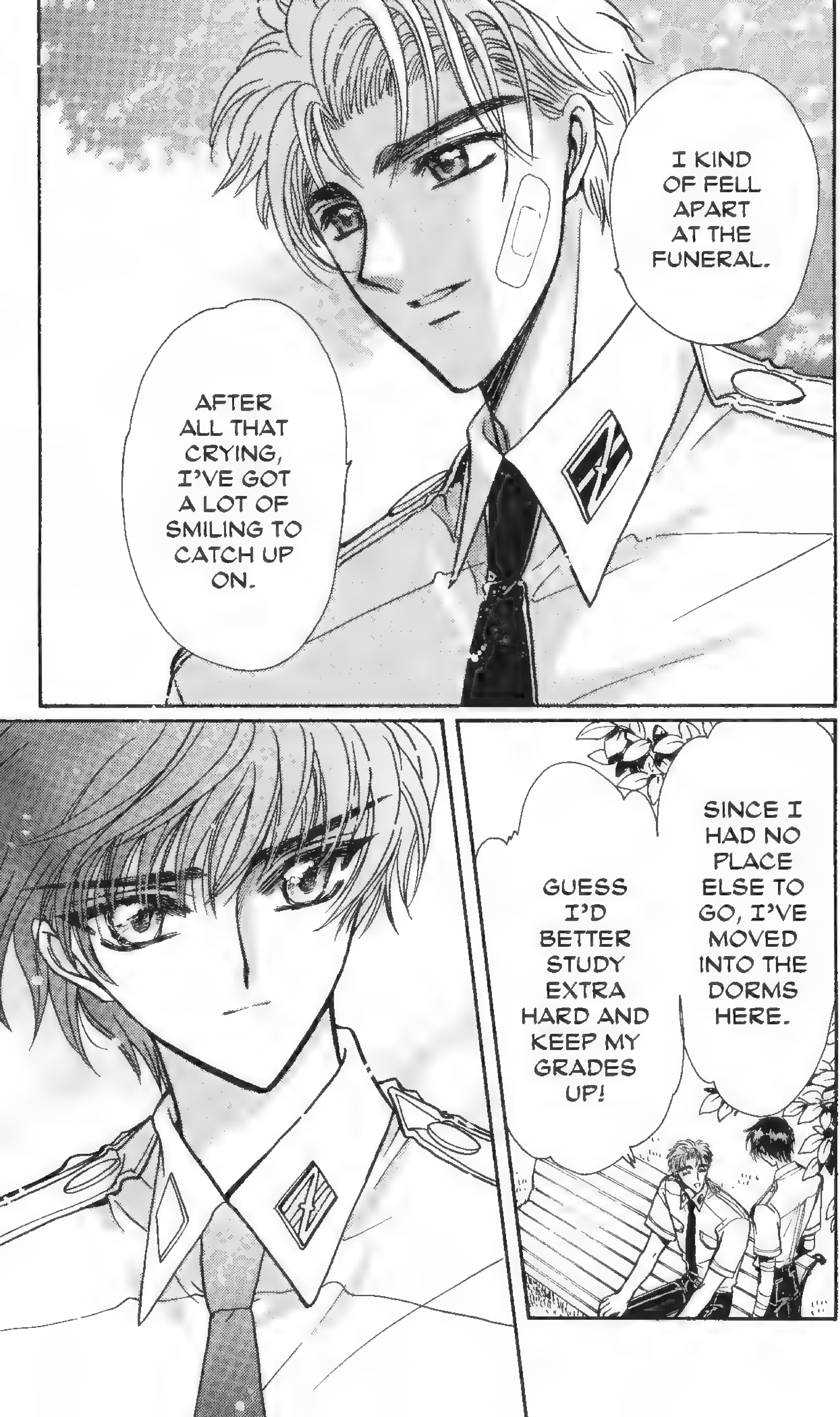

CHATTER CHATTER
WHERE'S KEIICHI?
THE TEACHER'S OFFICE, I THINK.
HE JUST CAME BACK TO SCHOOL YESTERDAY.
HE LOST HIS MOTHER...
...IN THAT EARTHQUAKE IN IKEBUKURO.
DASH

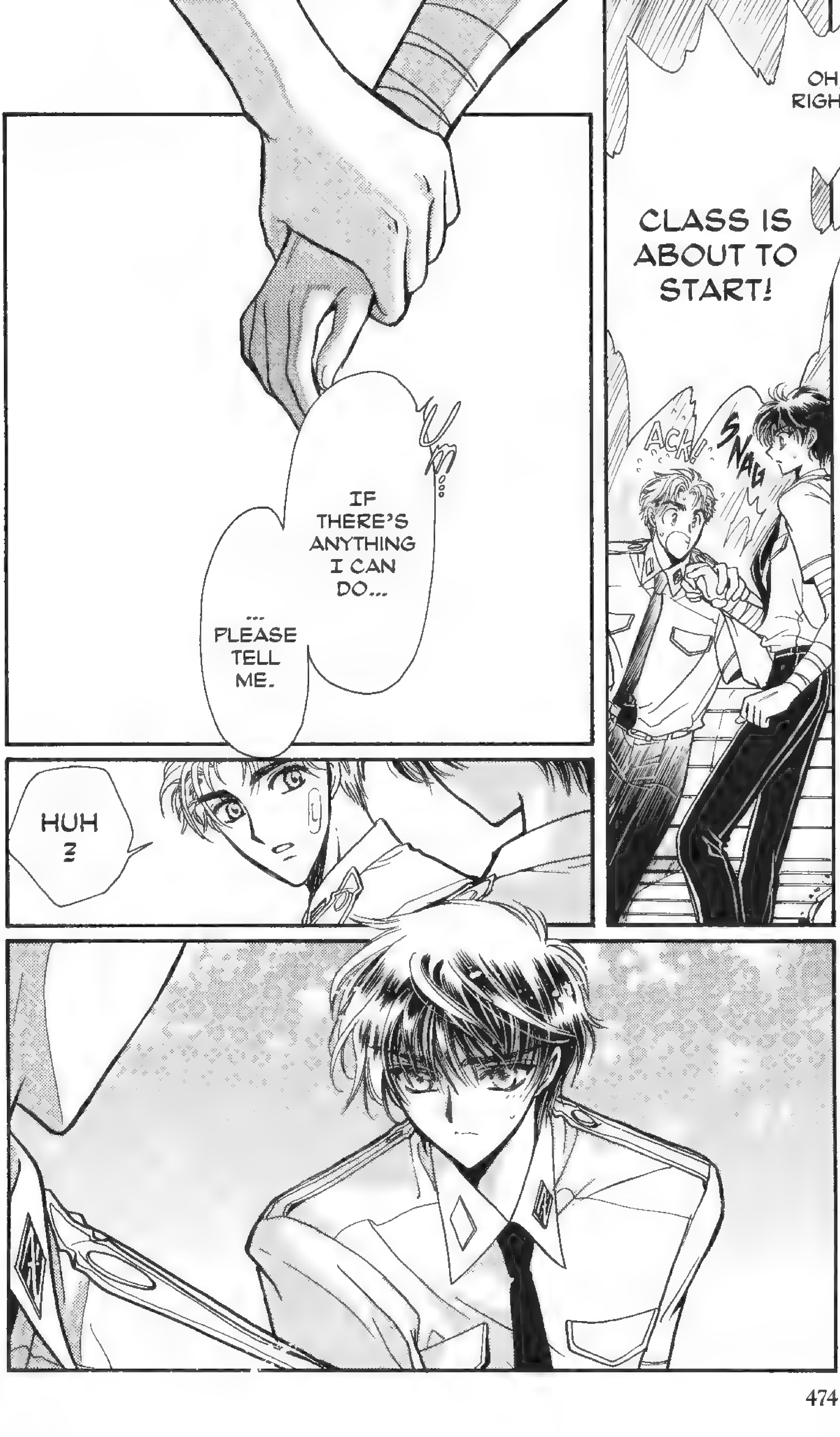

HUFF
HUFF
KAMUI!

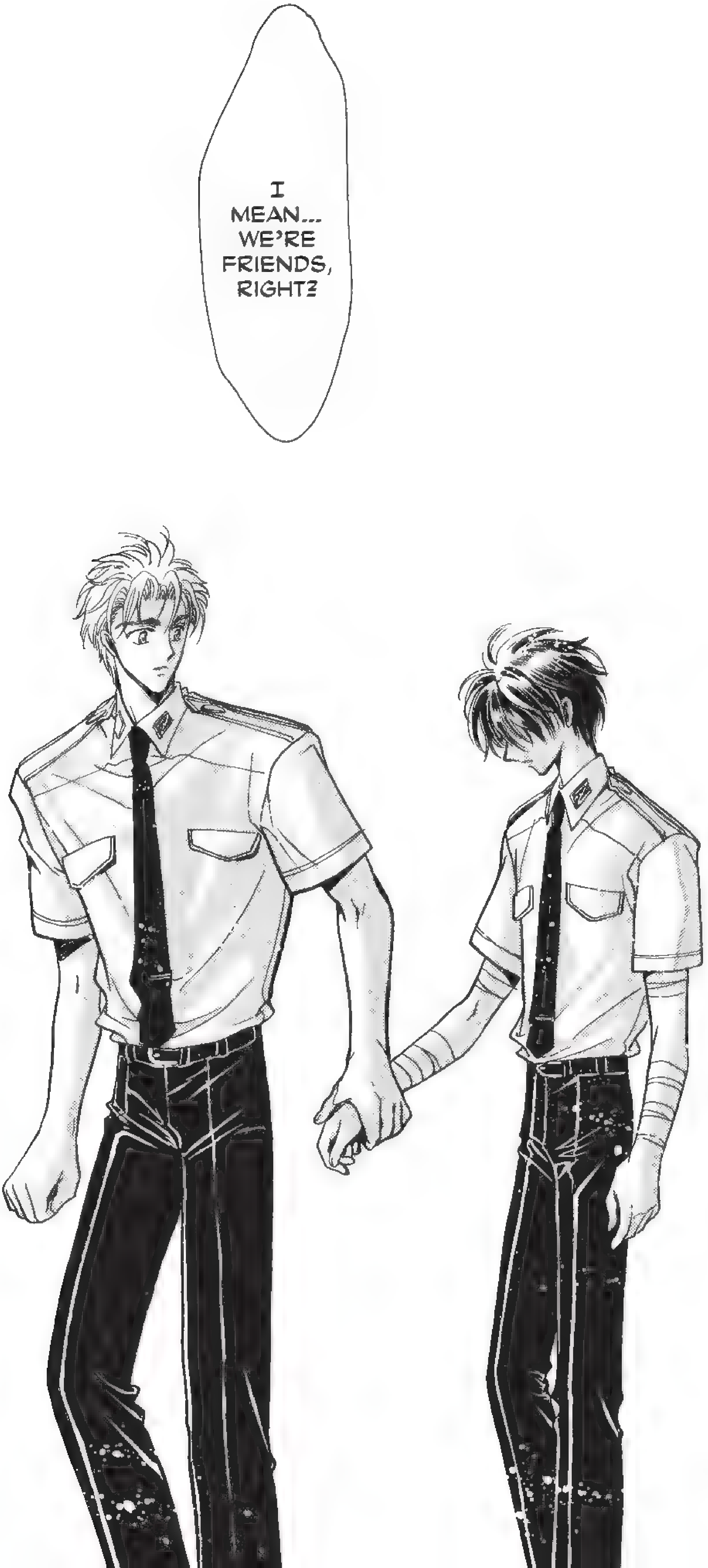

OH, NO!
YOU *DID* GET HURT!
I'M FINE, REALLY.
BUT YOU...
I'M JUST A LITTLE BANGED UP.

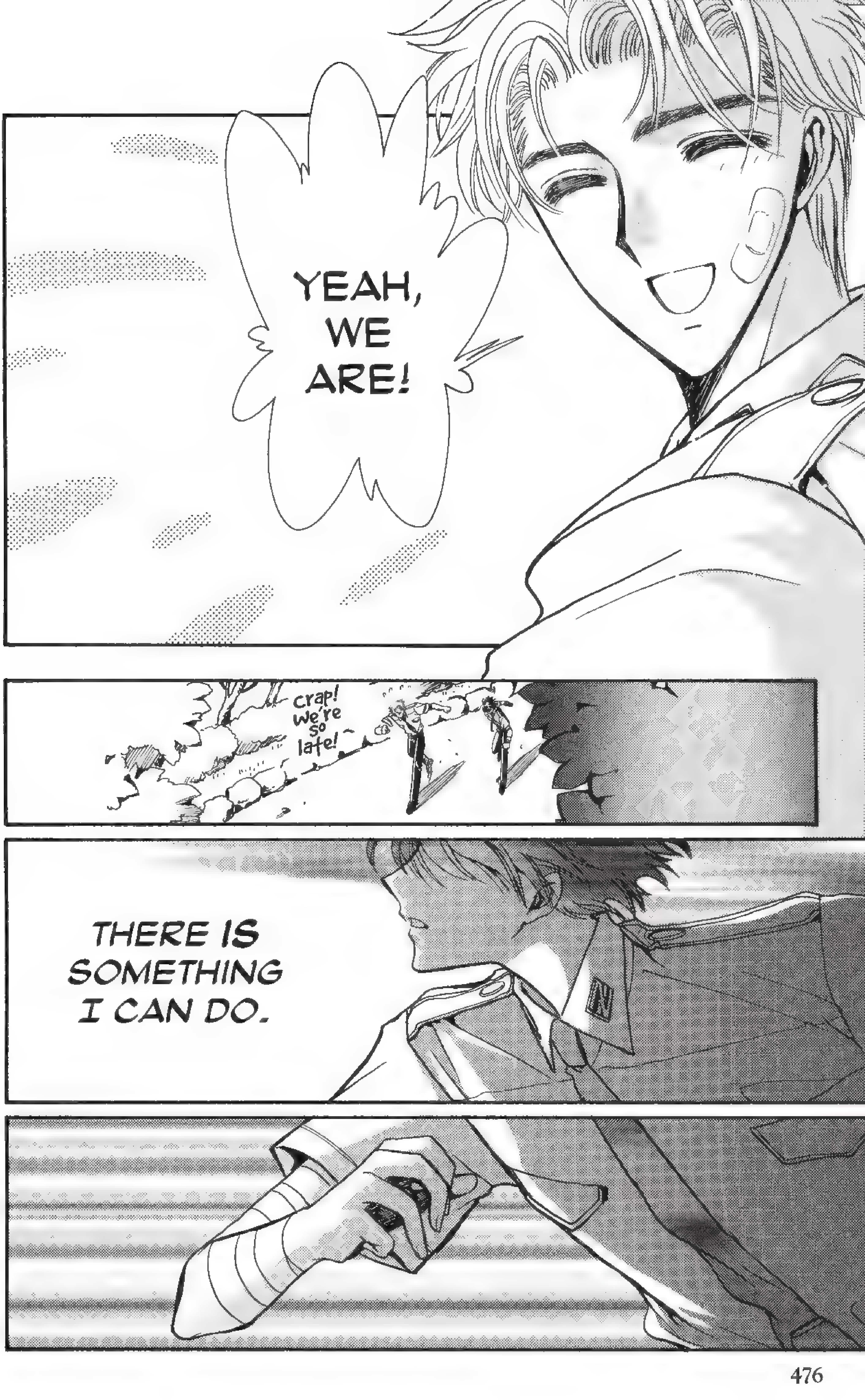

SO YOU HEARD ABOUT MY MOM?
I THOUGHT SO.

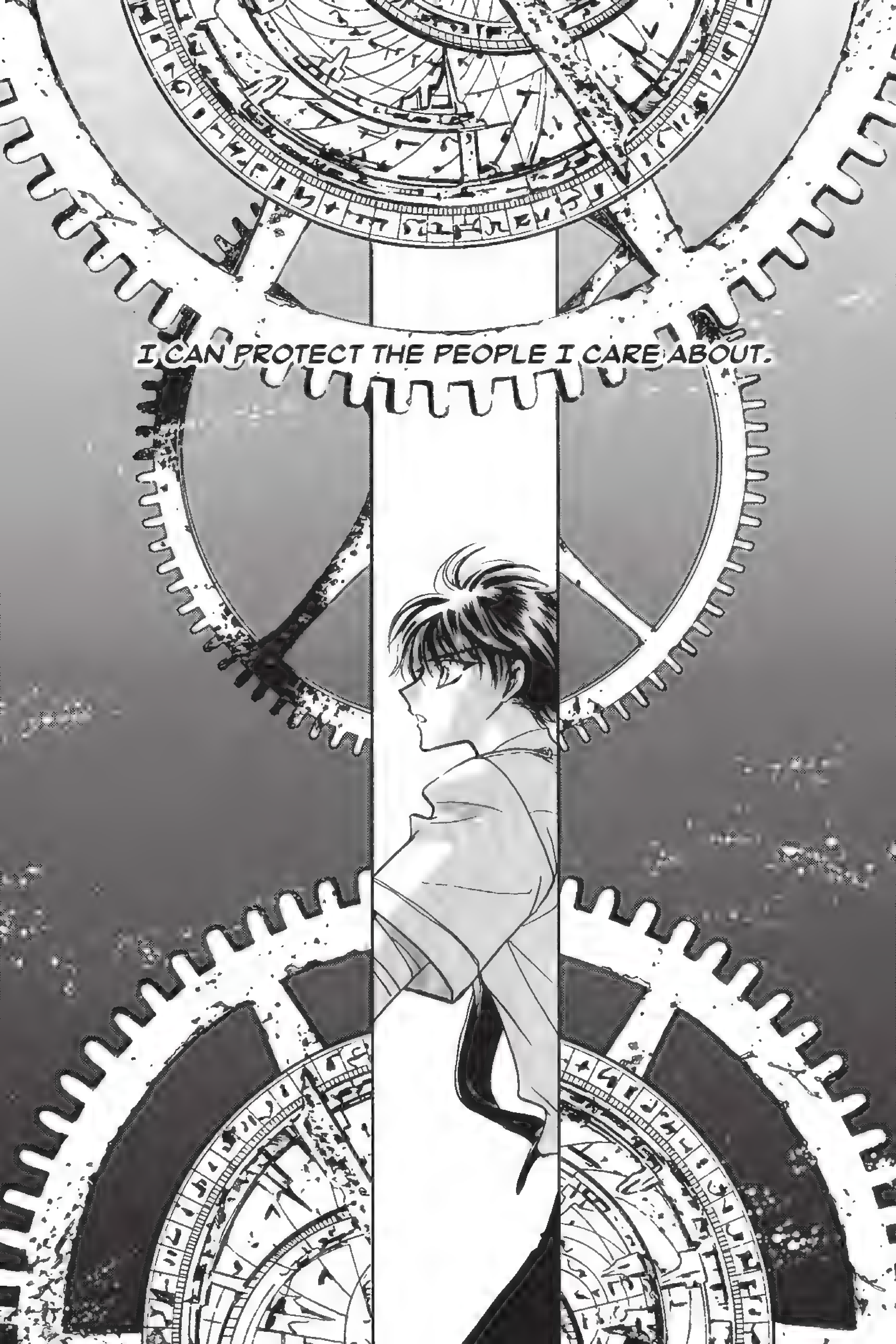

BY THE TIME I GOT BACK TO OUR HOUSE IT WAS ALREADY ON FIRE.
I WAS TOO LATE.
I COULDN'T HELP HER...
...ANY MORE THAN I COULD HELP MY DAD.
SO NOW IT'S UP TO ME TO LIVE A GOOD LIFE FOR ALL THREE OF US!

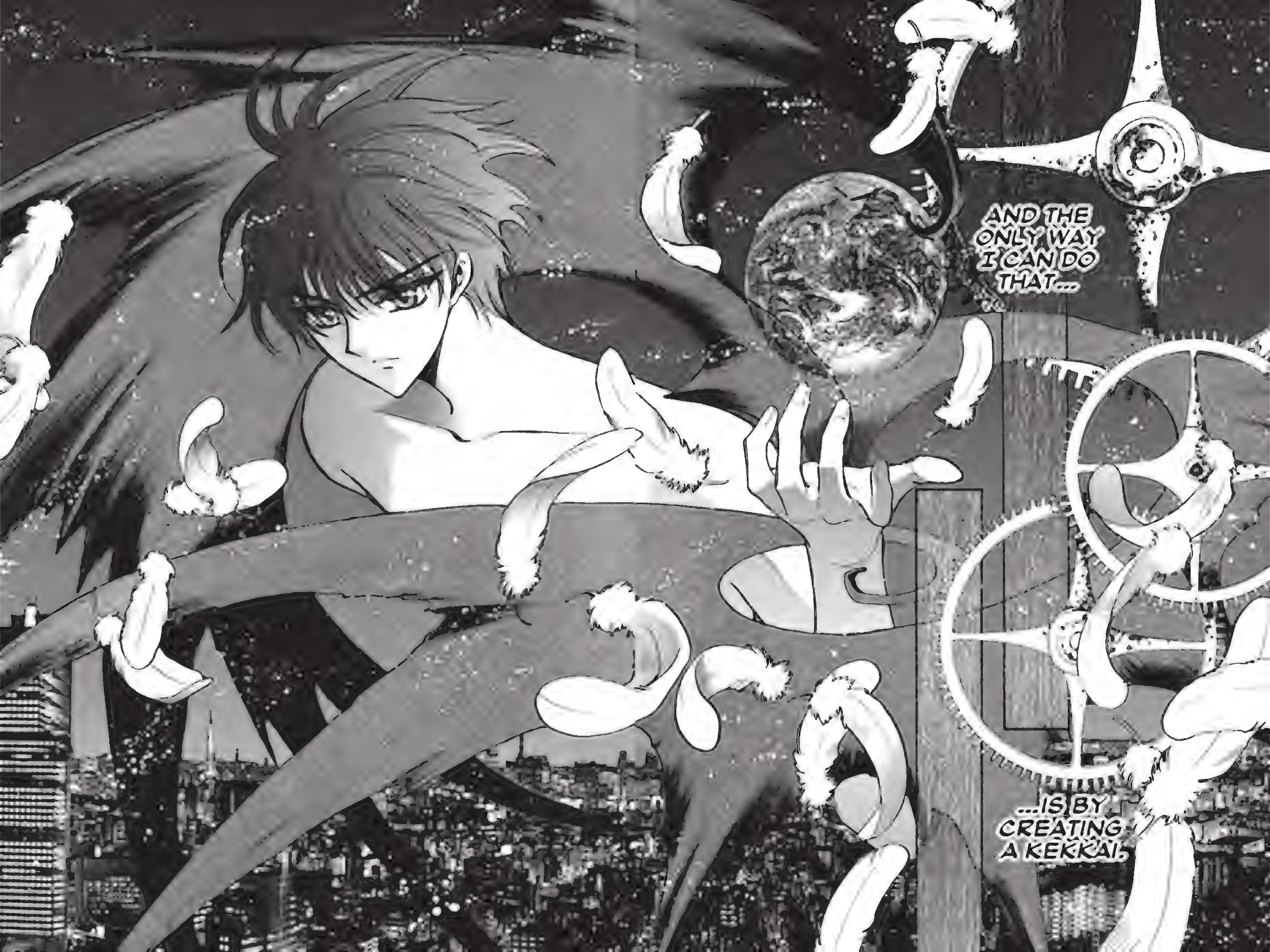

I KIND OF FELL APART AT THE FUNERAL.
AFTER ALL THAT CRYING, I'VE GOT A LOT OF SMILING TO CATCH UP ON.
SINCE I HAD NO PLACE ELSE TO GO, I'VE MOVED INTO THE DORMS HERE.
GUESS I'D BETTER STUDY EXTRA HARD AND KEEP MY GRADES UP!

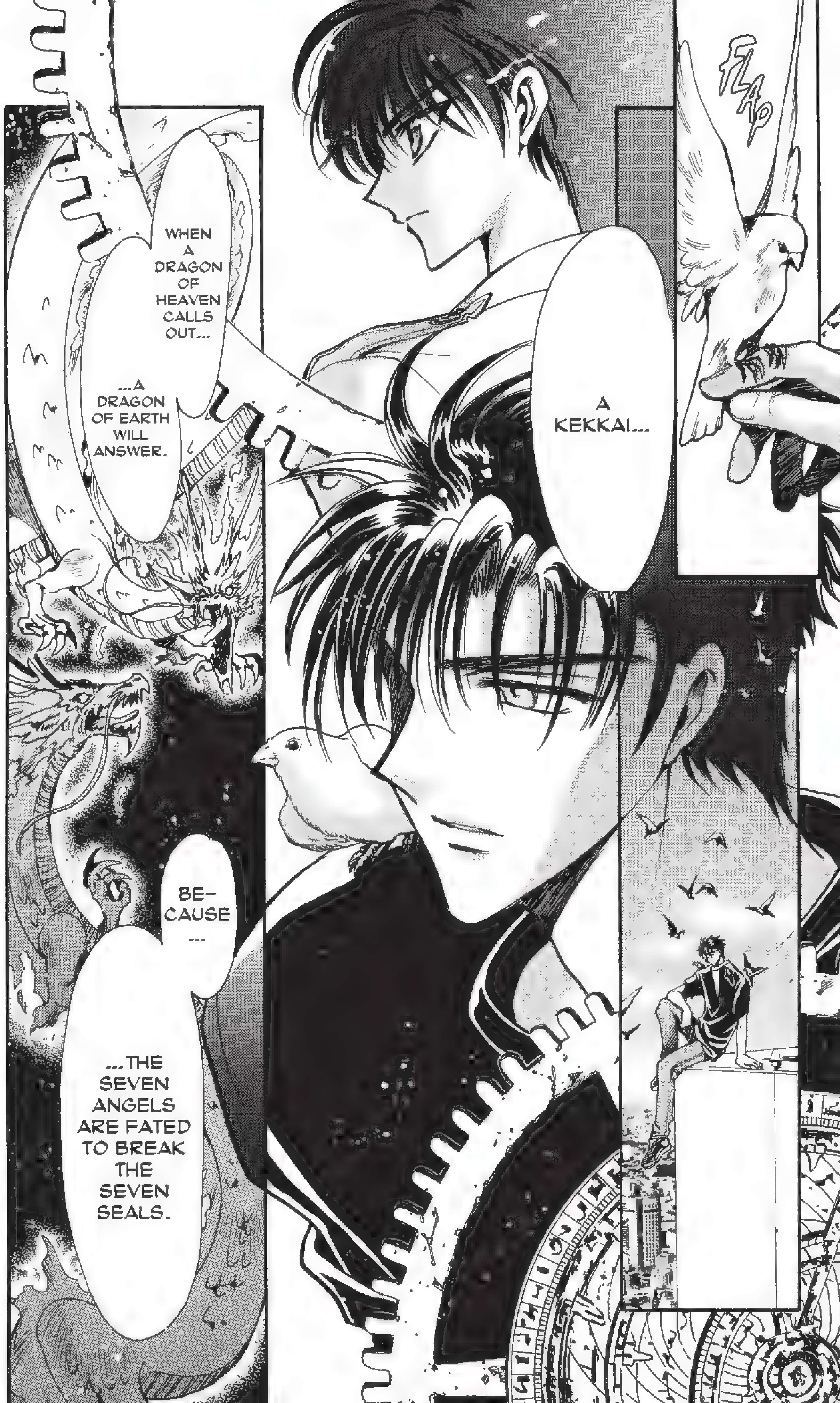

OH, RIGHT!
CLASS IS ABOUT TO START!
ACK!
SNAG
Um...
IF THERE'S ANYTHING I CAN DO...
...PLEASE TELL ME.
HUH?

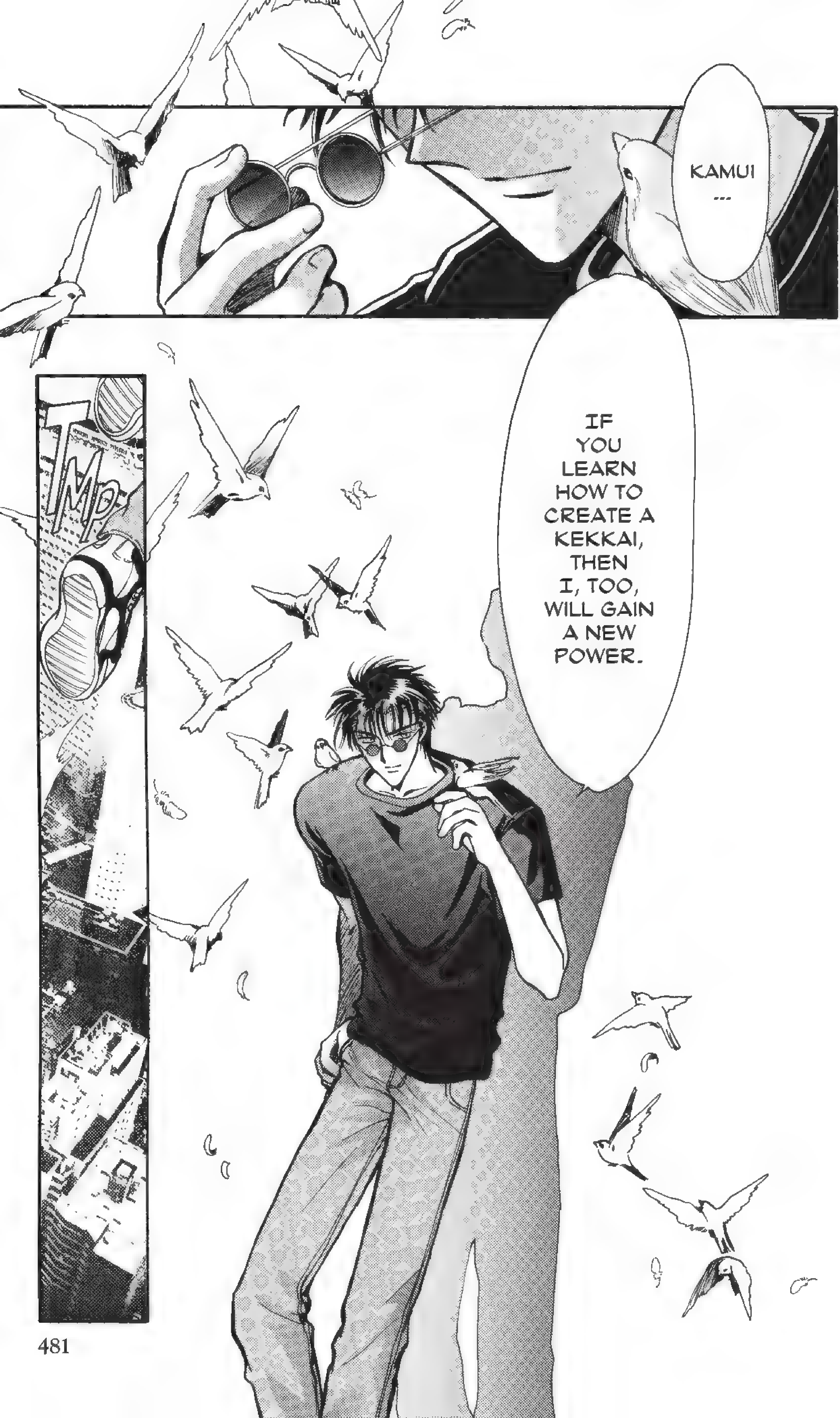

I MEAN... WE'RE FRIENDS, RIGHT?

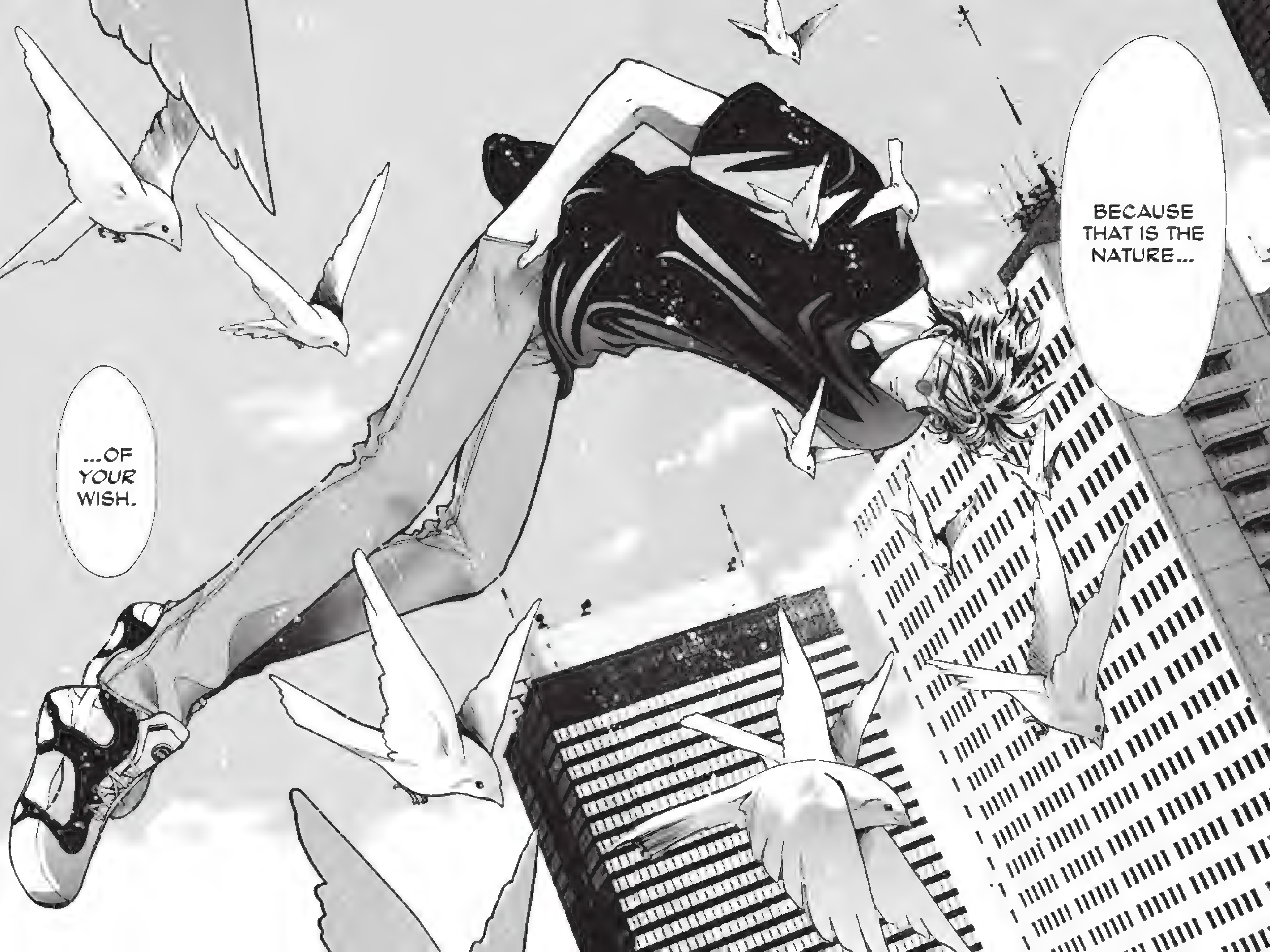

YEAH, WE ARE!
crap! we're so late!
THERE IS SOMETHING I CAN DO.

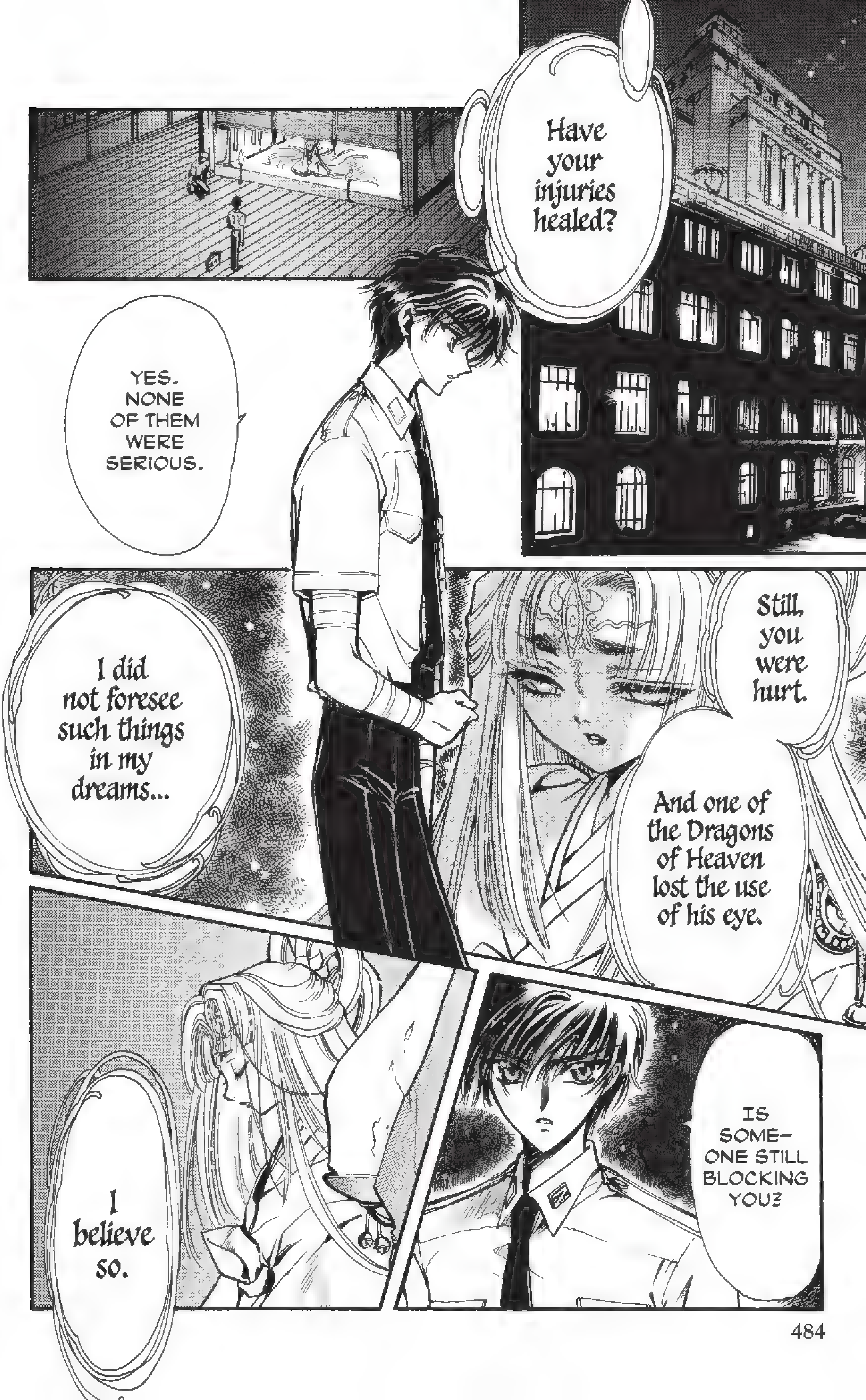

I CAN PROTECT THE PEOPLE I CARE ABOUT.

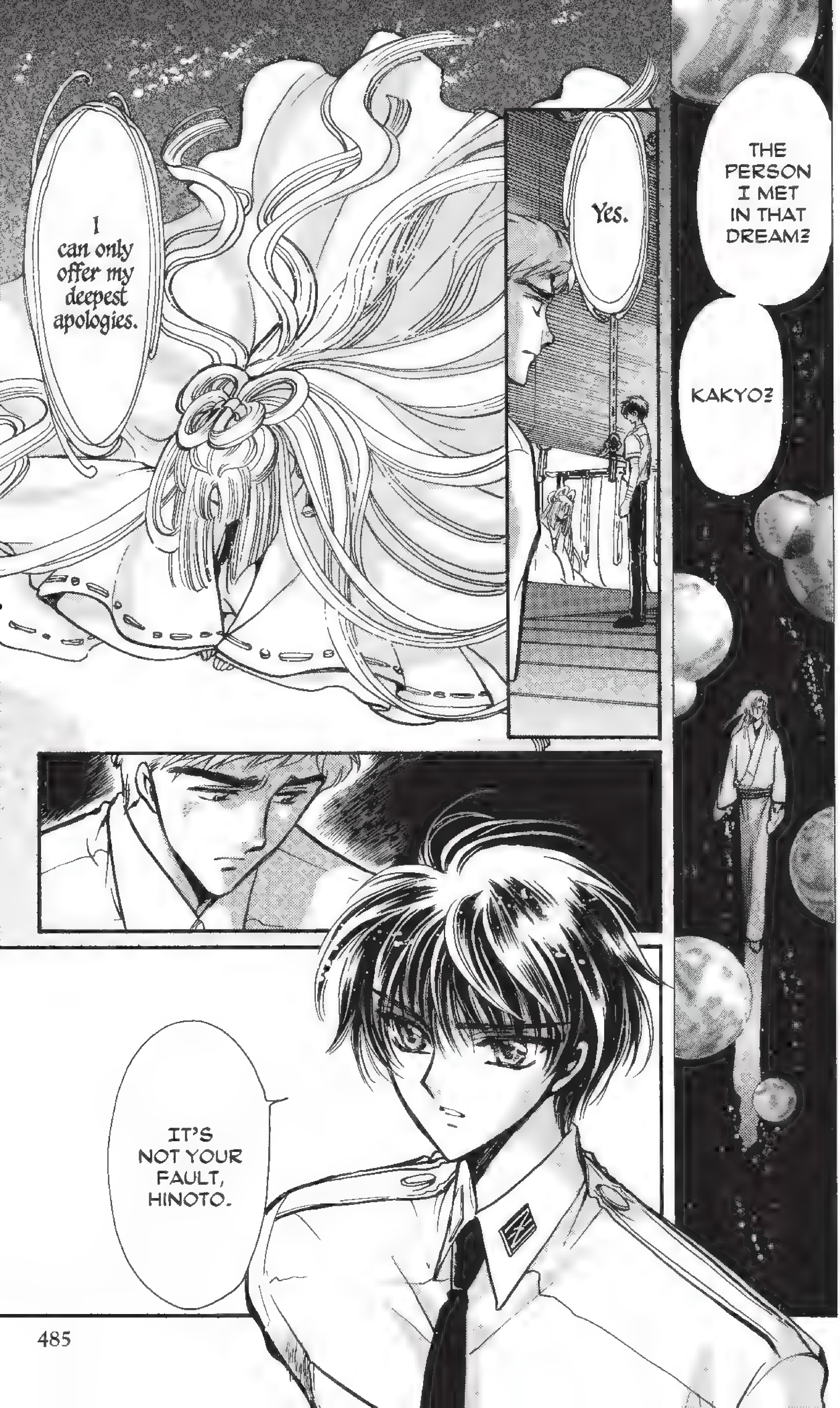

AND THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO THAT...
...IS BY CREATING A KEKKAI.

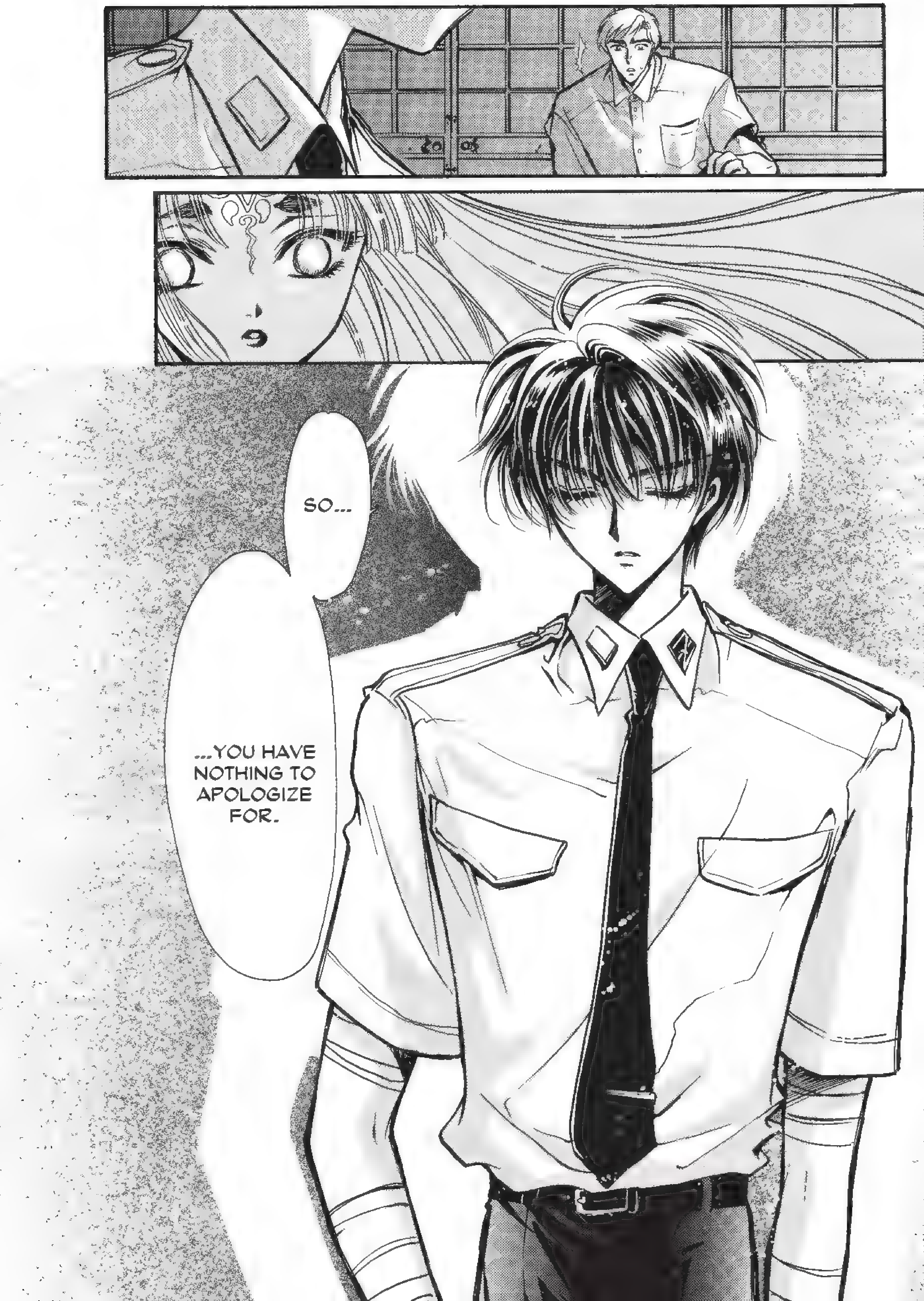

FLAP
A KEKKAI...
WHEN A DRAGON OF HEAVEN CALLS OUT...
...A DRAGON OF EARTH WILL ANSWER.
BE-CAUSE...
...THE SEVEN ANGELS ARE FATED TO BREAK THE SEVEN SEALS.

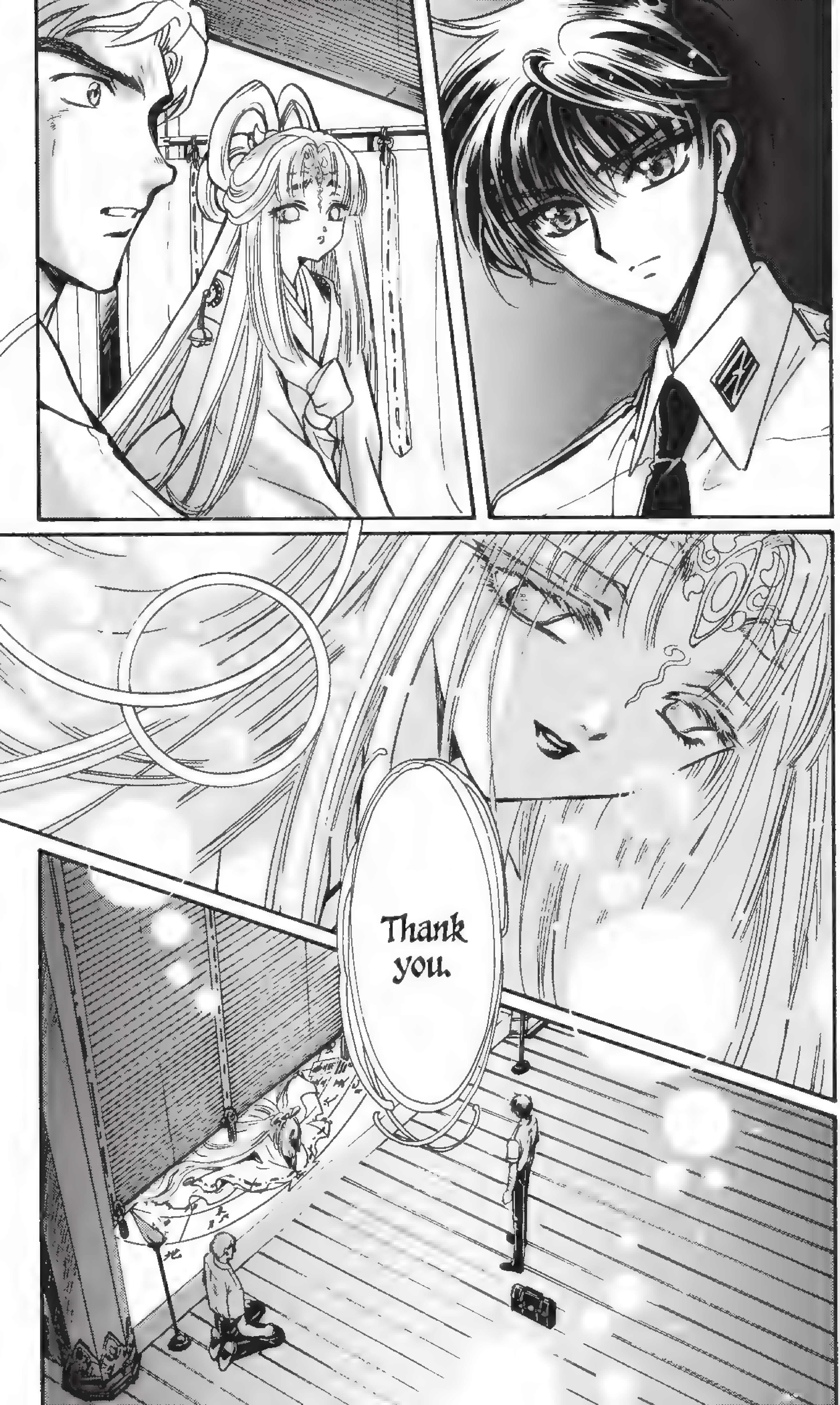

KAMUI ...
IF YOU LEARN HOW TO CREATE A KEKKAI, THEN I, TOO, WILL GAIN A NEW POWER.

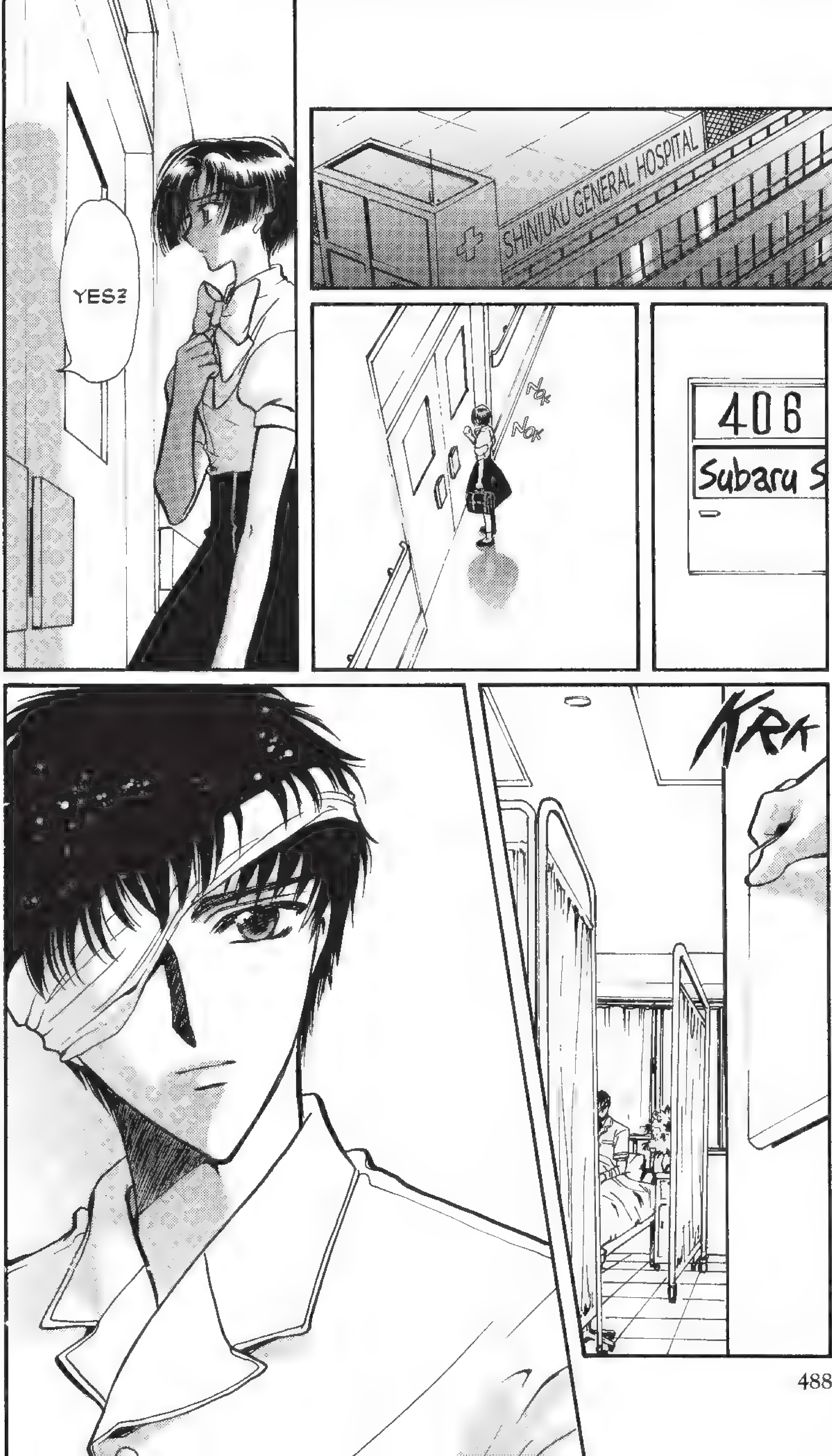

BECAUSE THAT IS THE NATURE...
...OF YOUR WISH.

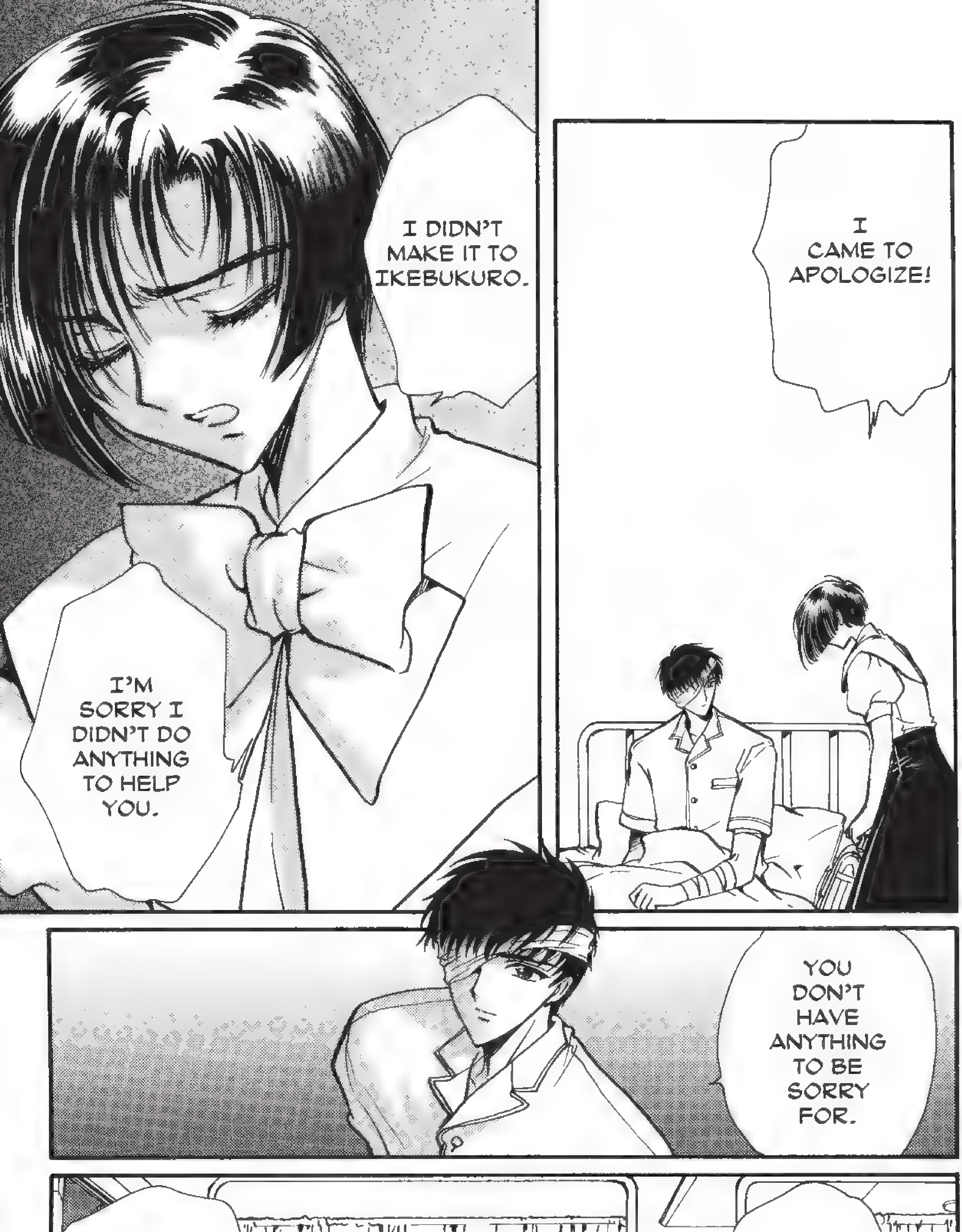

Have your injuries healed?
YES. NONE OF THEM WERE SERIOUS.
Still, you were hurt.
And one of the Dragons of Heaven lost the use of his eye.
I did not foresee such things in my dreams...
IS SOME-ONE STILL BLOCKING YOU?
I believe so.

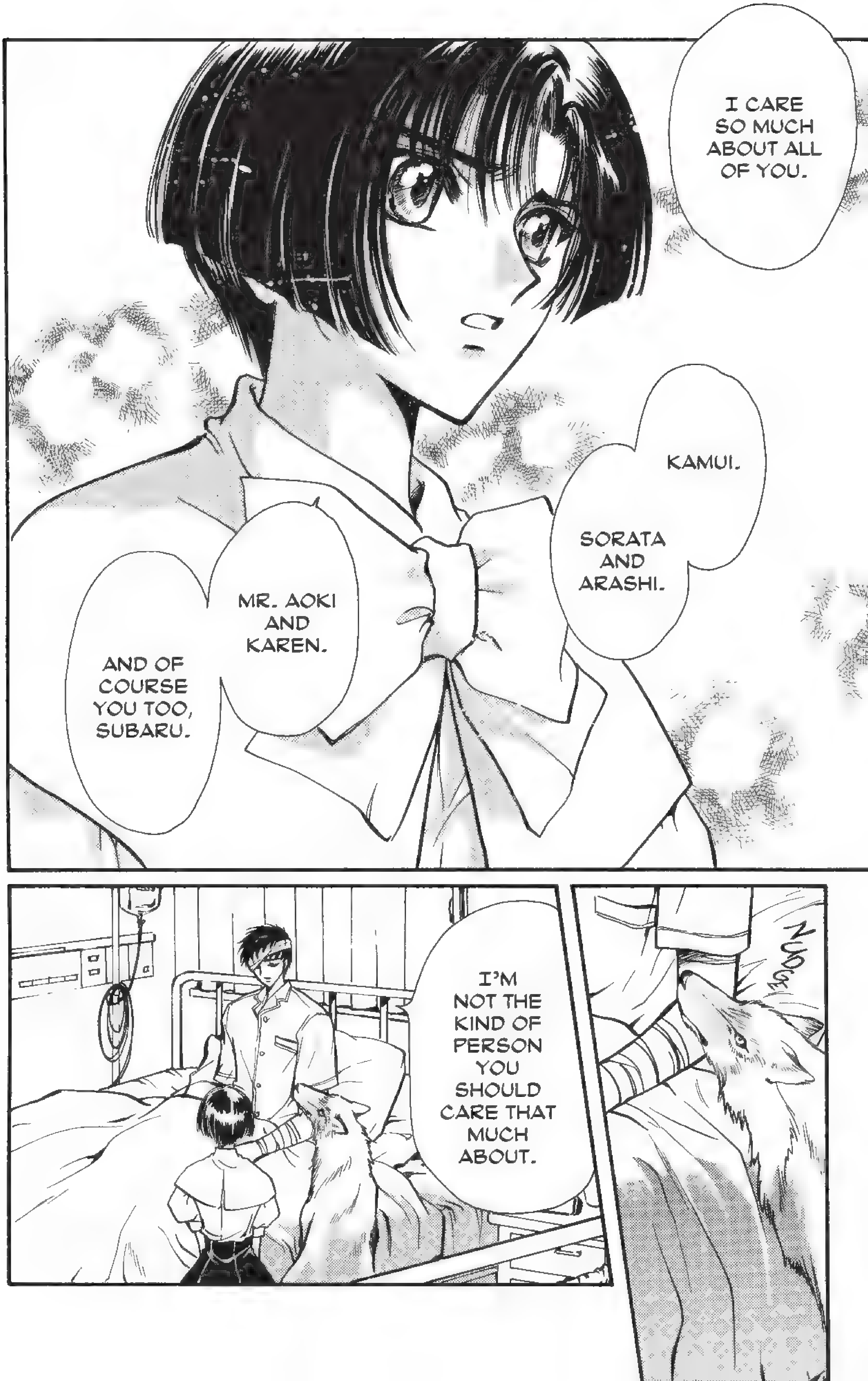

THE PERSON I MET IN THAT DREAM?
KAKYO?
Yes.
I can only offer my deepest apologies.
IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT, HINOTO.

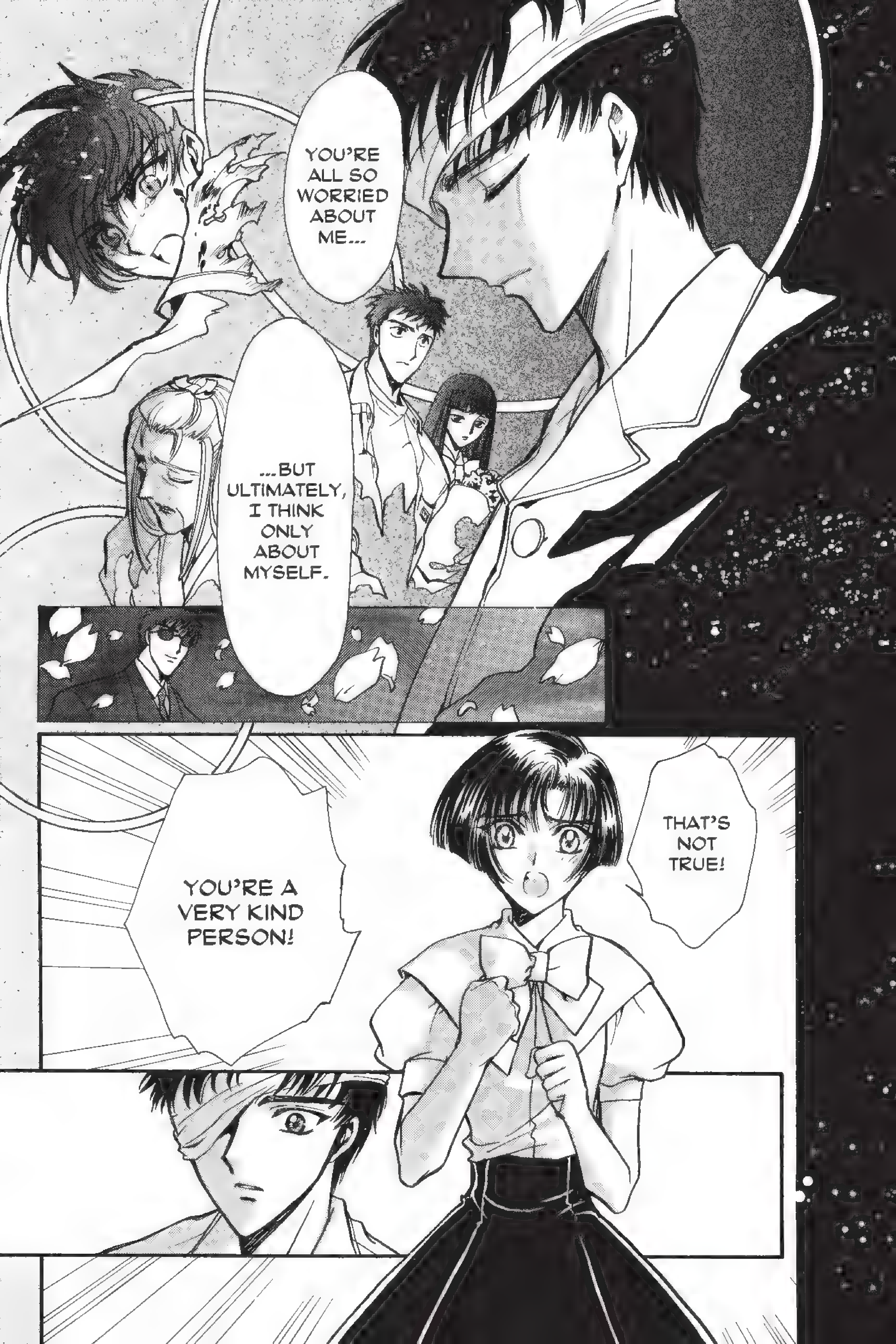

SO...
...YOU HAVE NOTHING TO APOLOGIZE FOR.

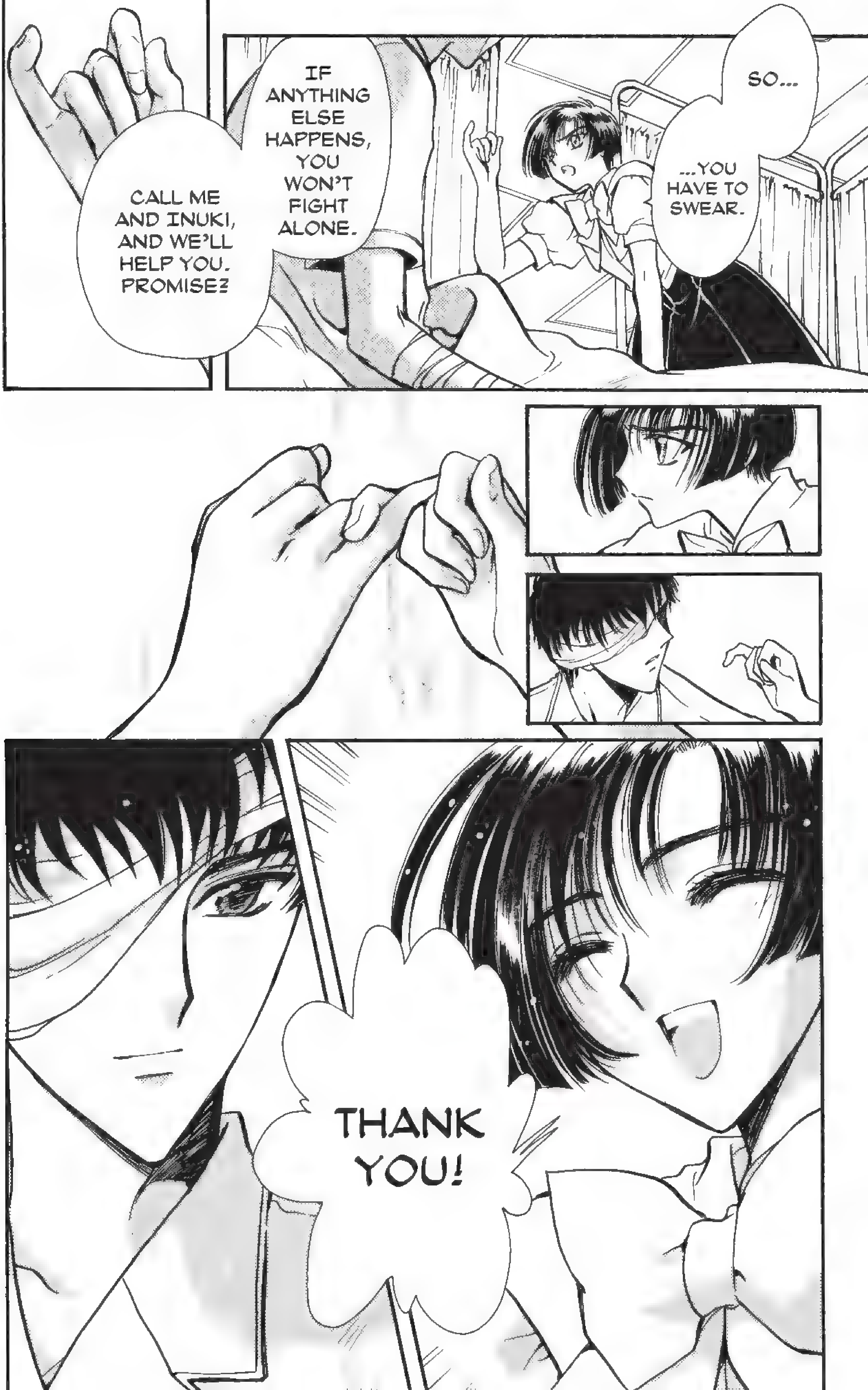

Thank you.
地

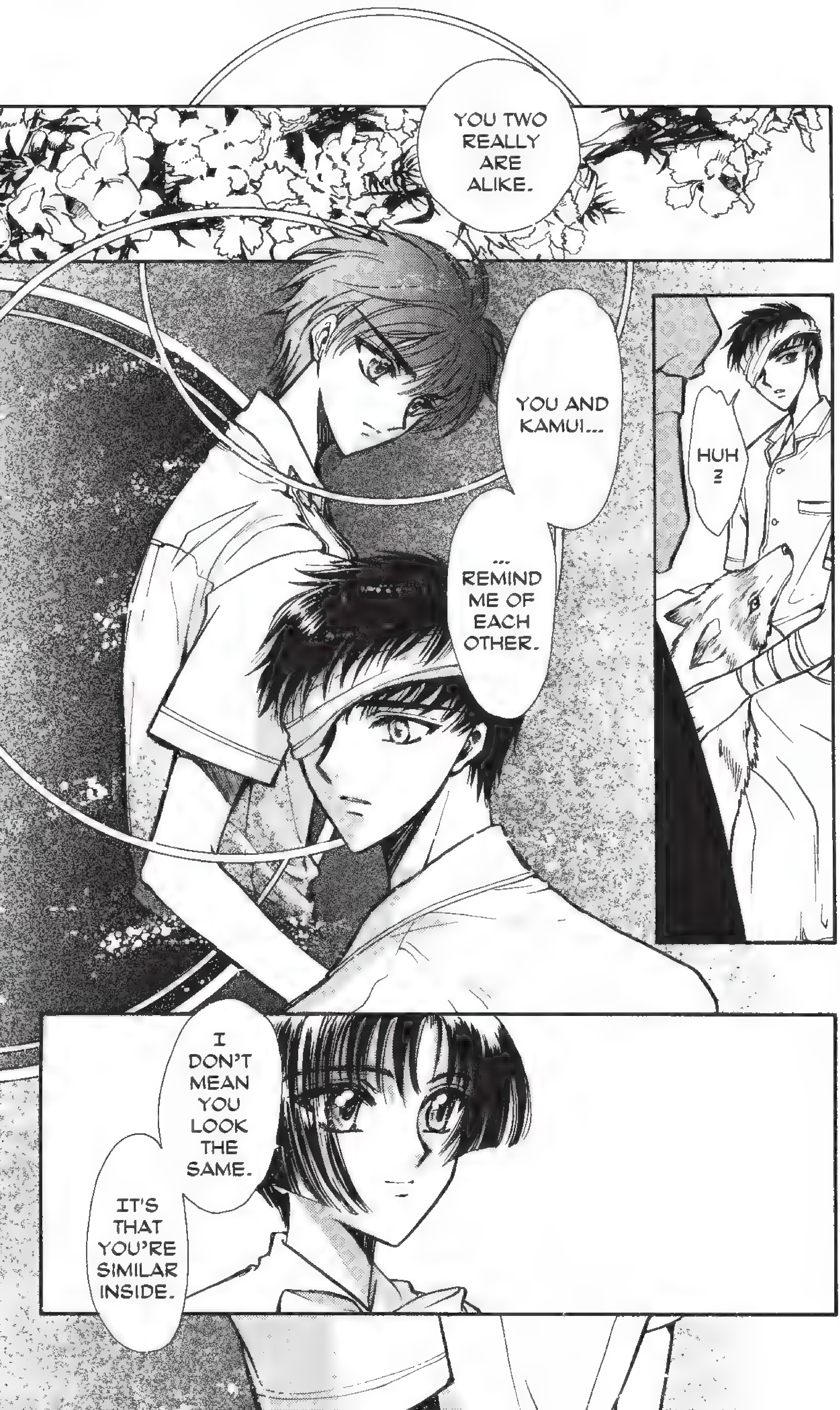

SHINJUKU GENERAL HOSPITAL
406
Subaru S
NOK
NOK
YES?
KRA

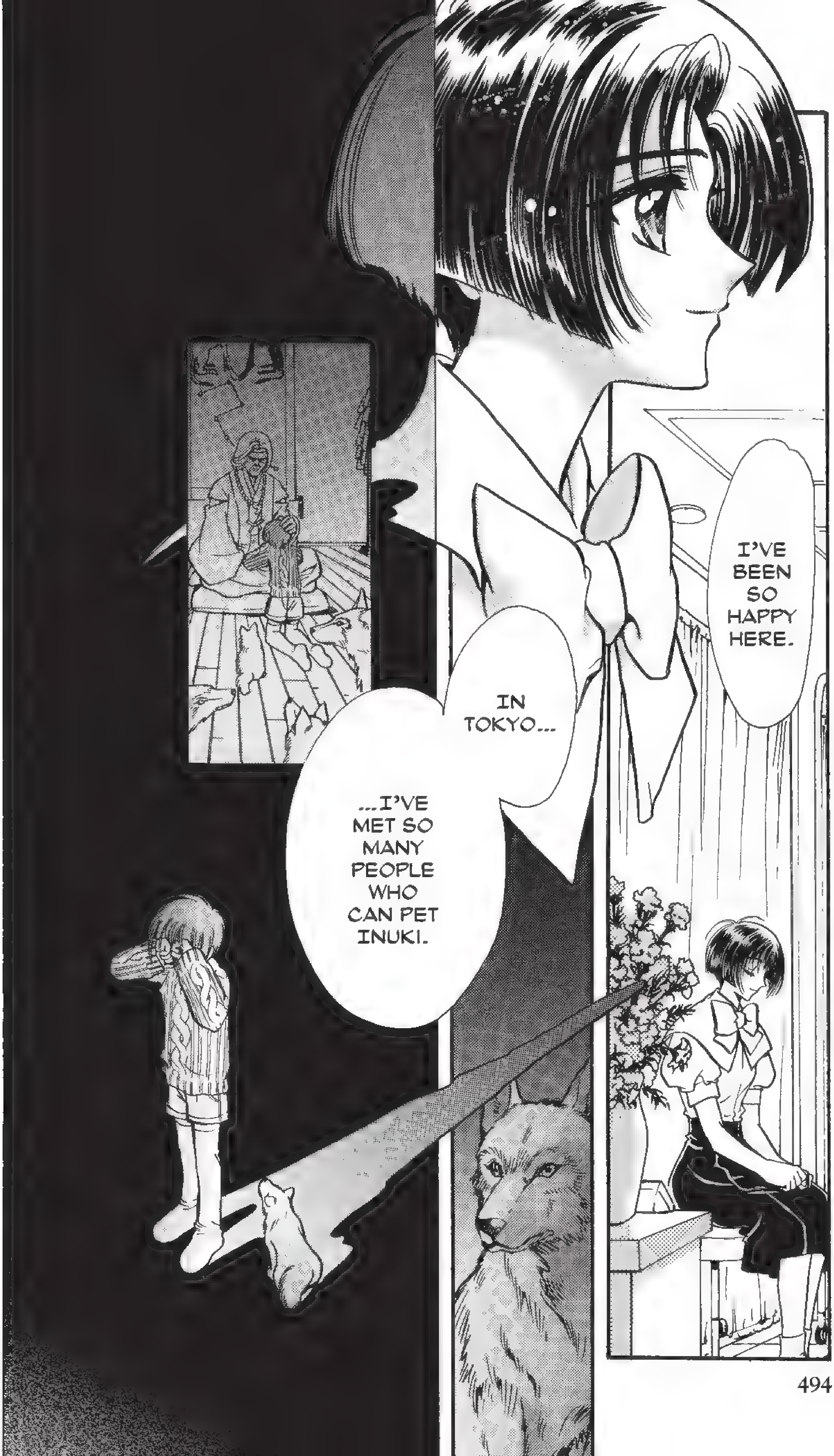

I CAME TO APOLOGIZE!
I DIDN'T MAKE IT TO IKEBUKURO.
I'M SORRY I DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP YOU.
YOU DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO BE SORRY FOR.
BUT IF I DON'T APOLOGIZE...
...IT'LL KEEP EATING AT ME.

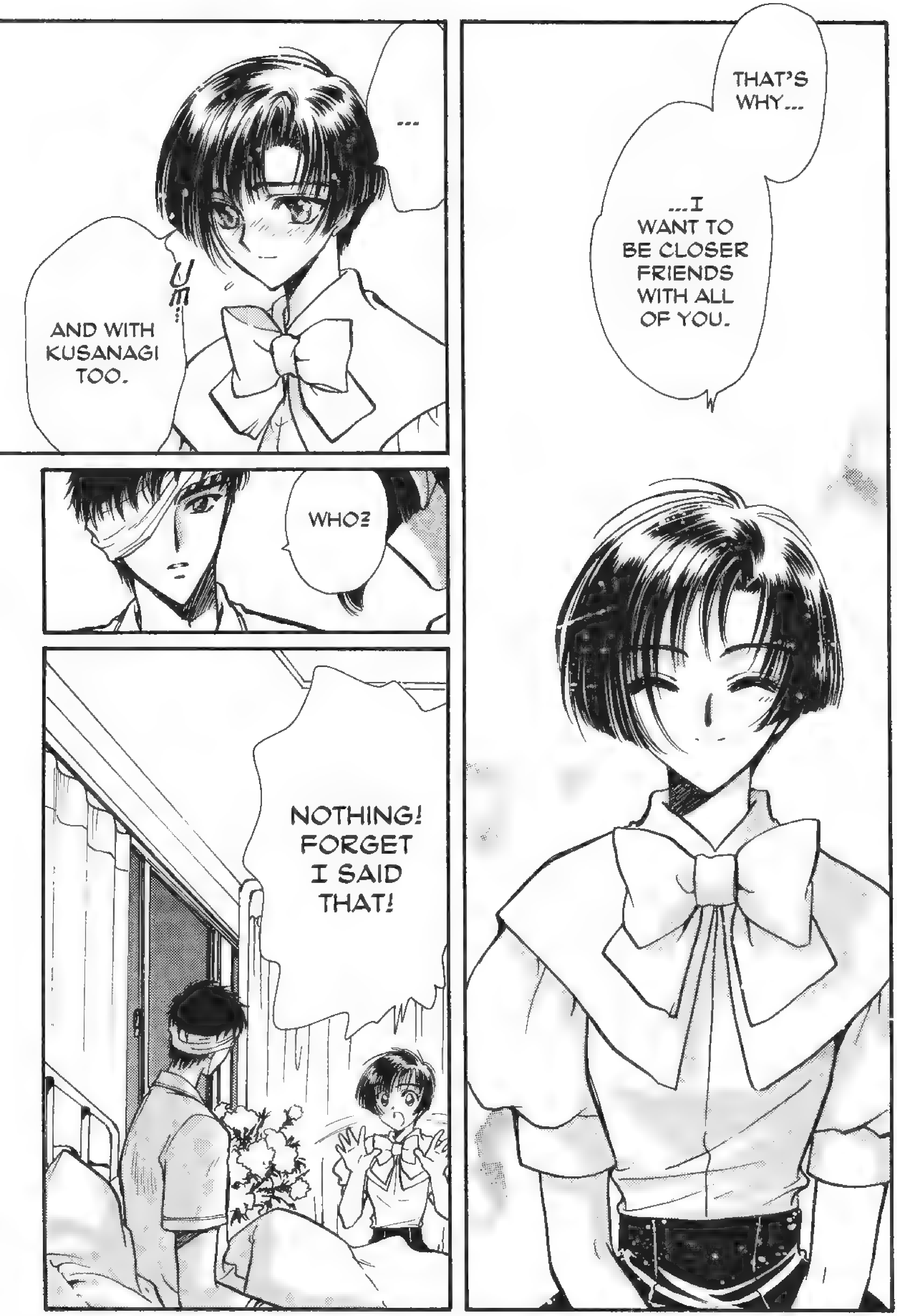

I CARE SO MUCH ABOUT ALL OF YOU.
KAMUI.
SORATA AND ARASHI.
MR. AOKI AND KAREN.
AND OF COURSE YOU TOO, SUBARU.
NUDGE
I'M NOT THE KIND OF PERSON YOU SHOULD CARE THAT MUCH ABOUT.

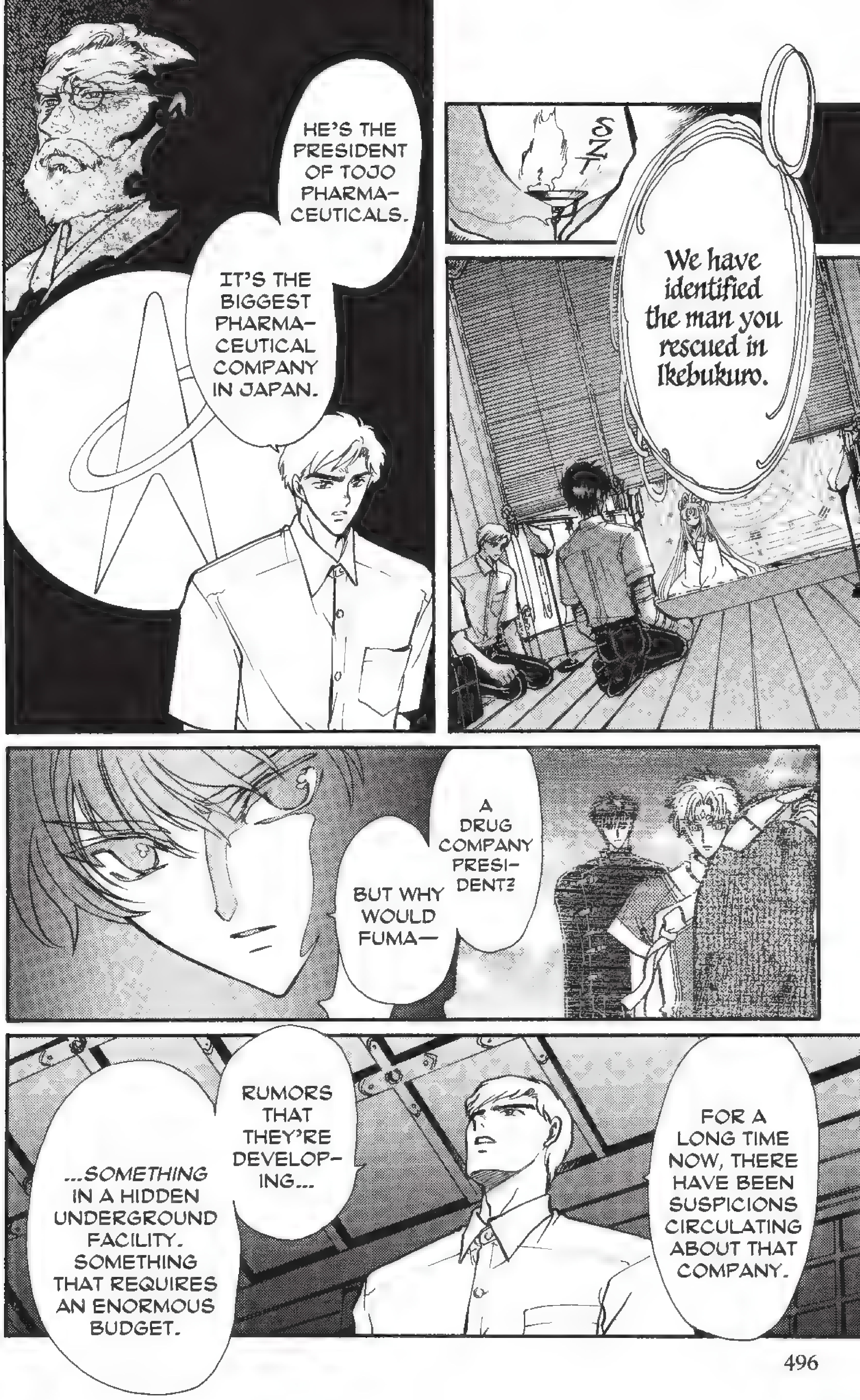

YOU'RE ALL SO WORRIED ABOUT ME...
...BUT ULTIMATELY, I THINK ONLY ABOUT MYSELF.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
YOU'RE A VERY KIND PERSON!

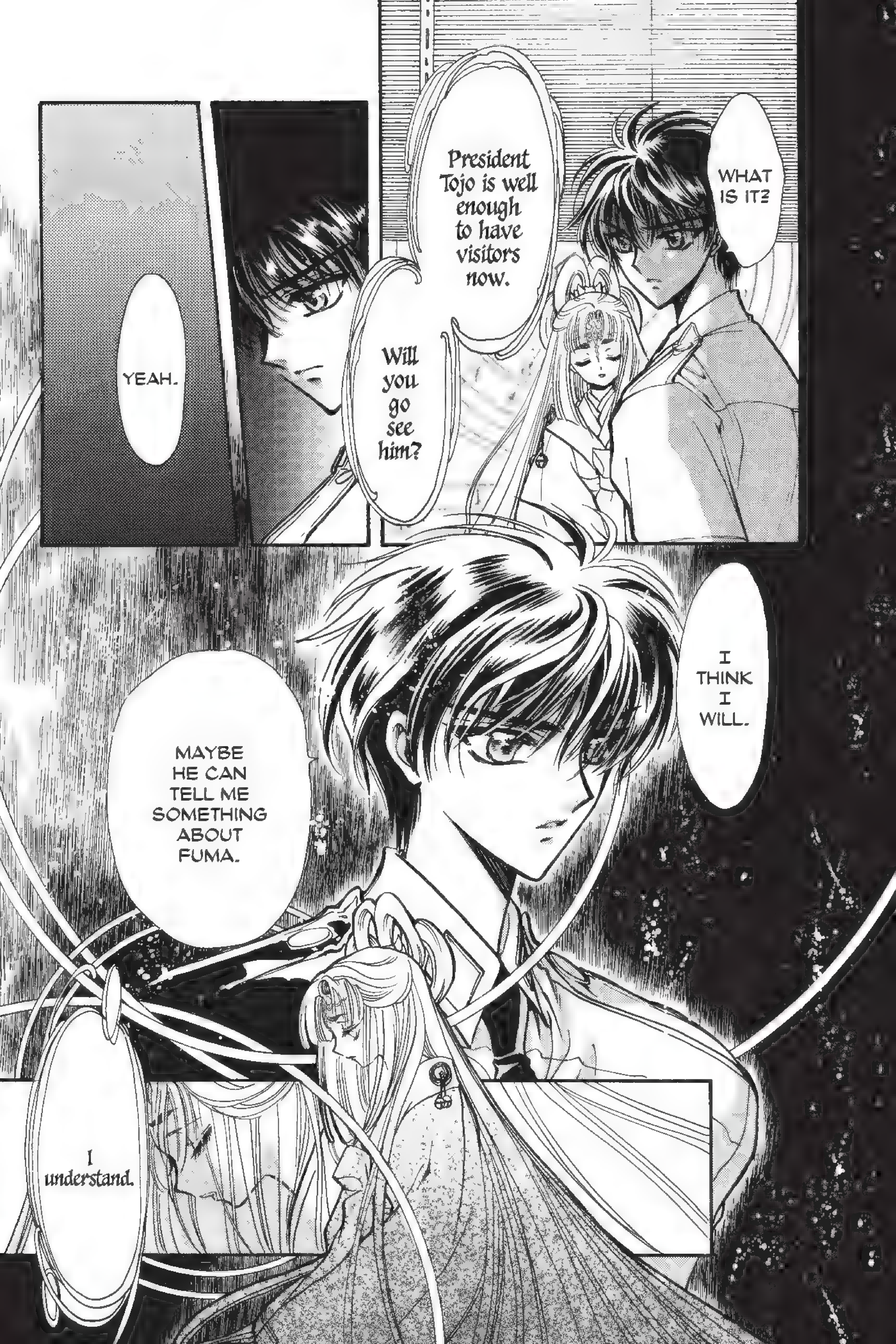

SO...
...YOU HAVE TO SWEAR.
IF ANYTHING ELSE HAPPENS, YOU WON'T FIGHT ALONE.
CALL ME AND INUKI, AND WE'LL HELP YOU. PROMISE?
THANK YOU!

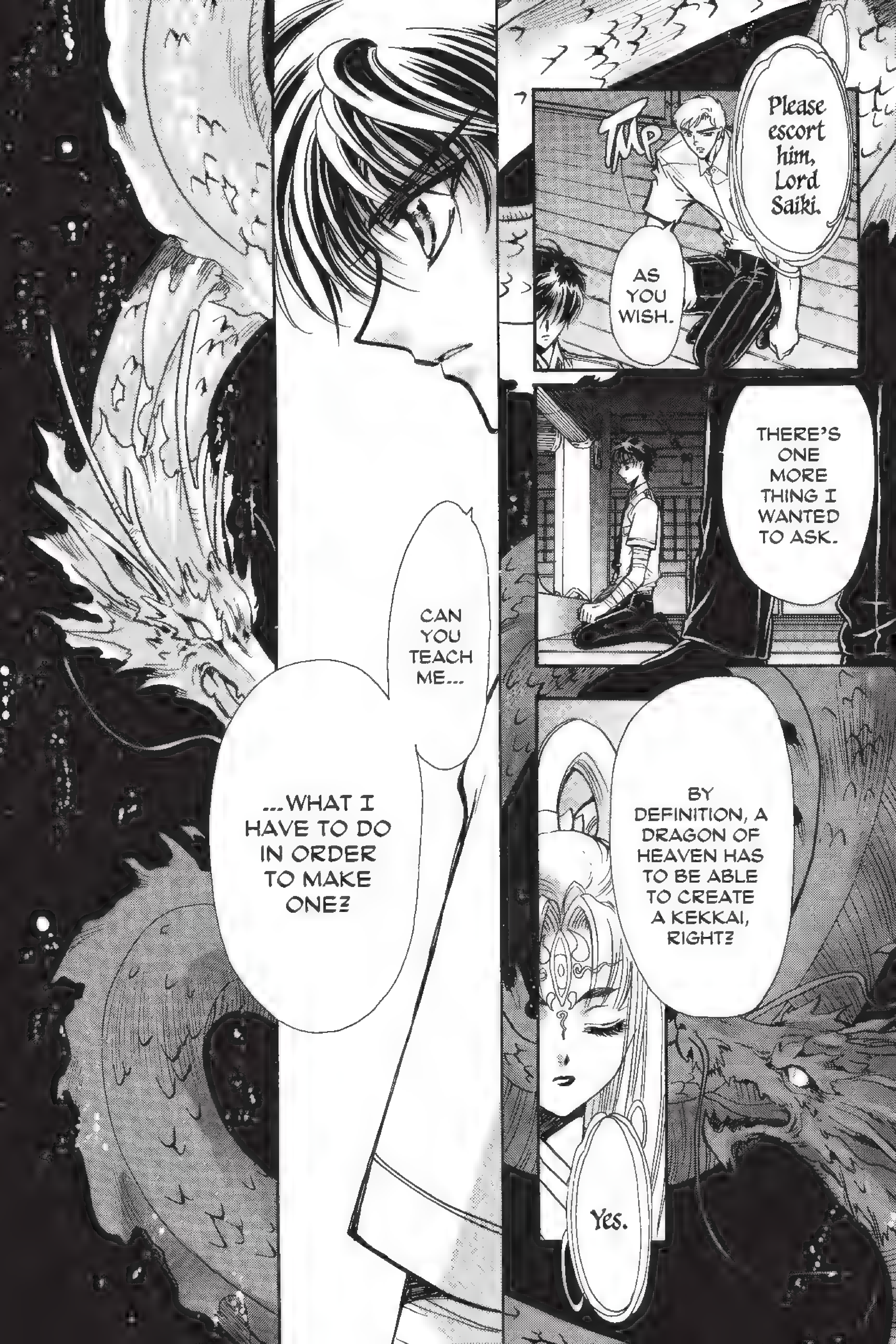

YOU TWO REALLY ARE ALIKE.
HUH?
YOU AND KAMUI...
...REMIND ME OF EACH OTHER.
I DON'T MEAN YOU LOOK THE SAME.
IT'S THAT YOU'RE SIMILAR INSIDE.

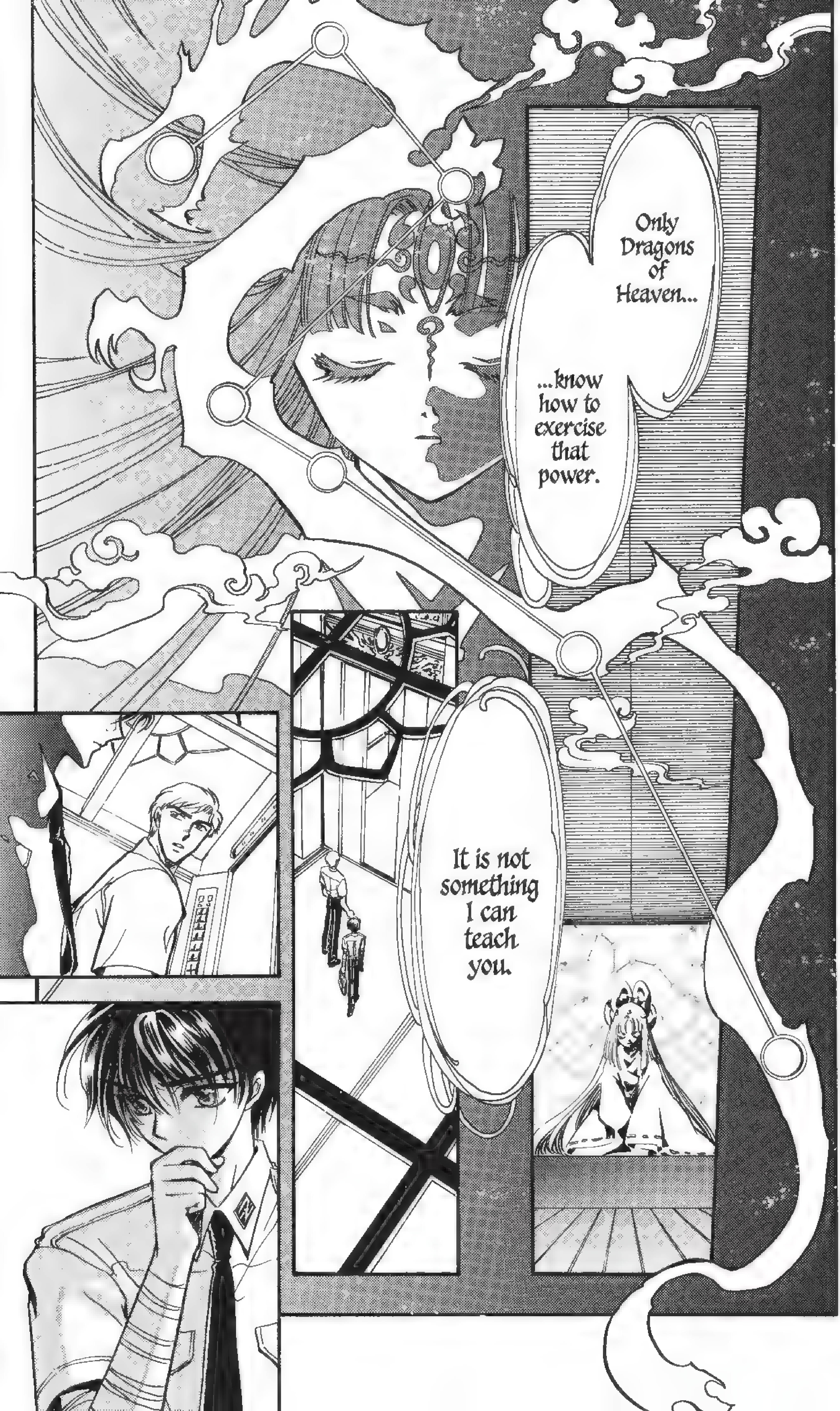

I'VE BEEN SO HAPPY HERE.
IN TOKYO...
...I'VE MET SO MANY PEOPLE WHO CAN PET INUKI.

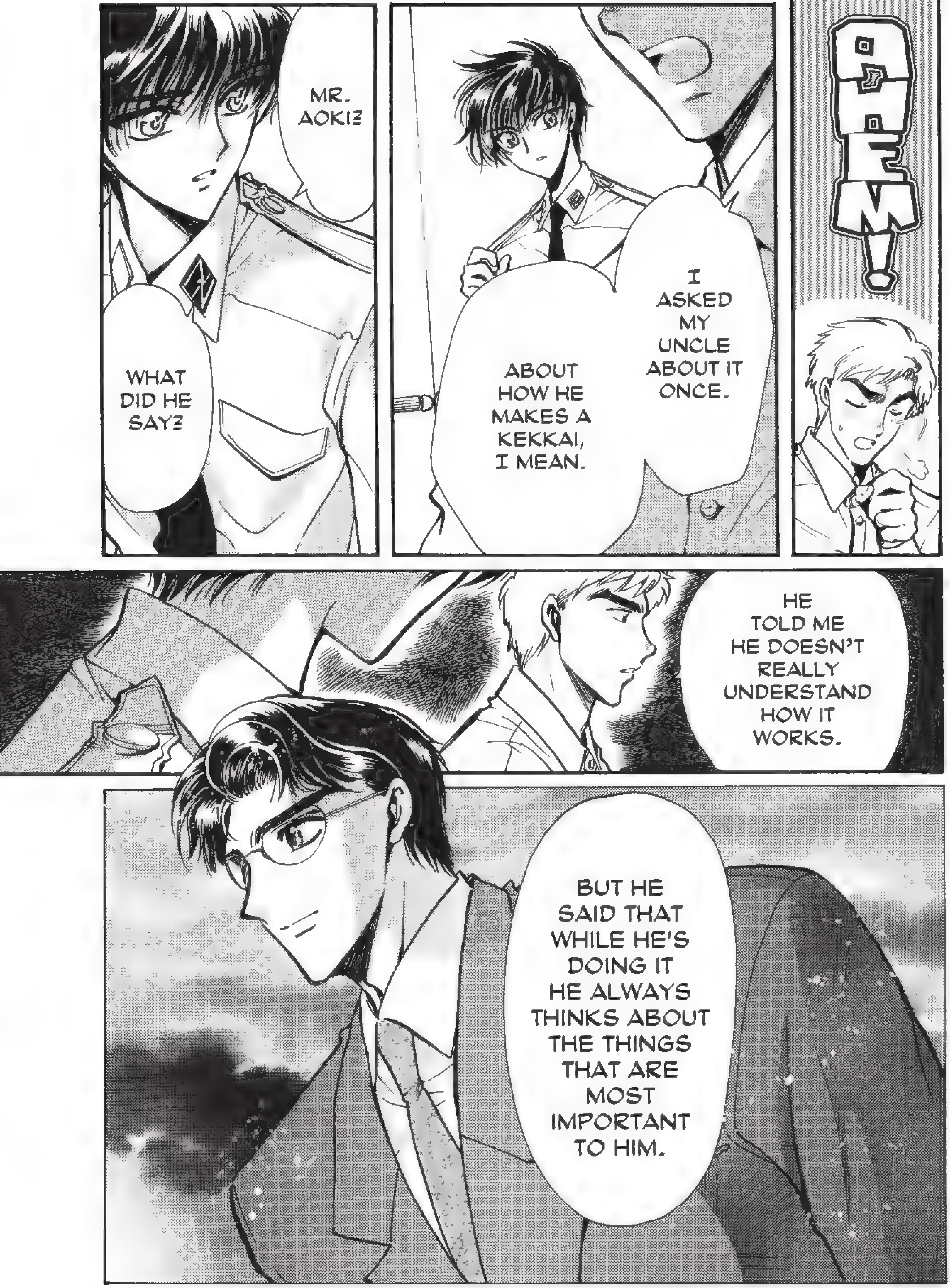

THAT'S WHY...
...I WANT TO BE CLOSER FRIENDS WITH ALL OF YOU.
...
UM...
AND WITH KUSANAGI TOO.
WHO?
NOTHING! FORGET I SAID THAT!

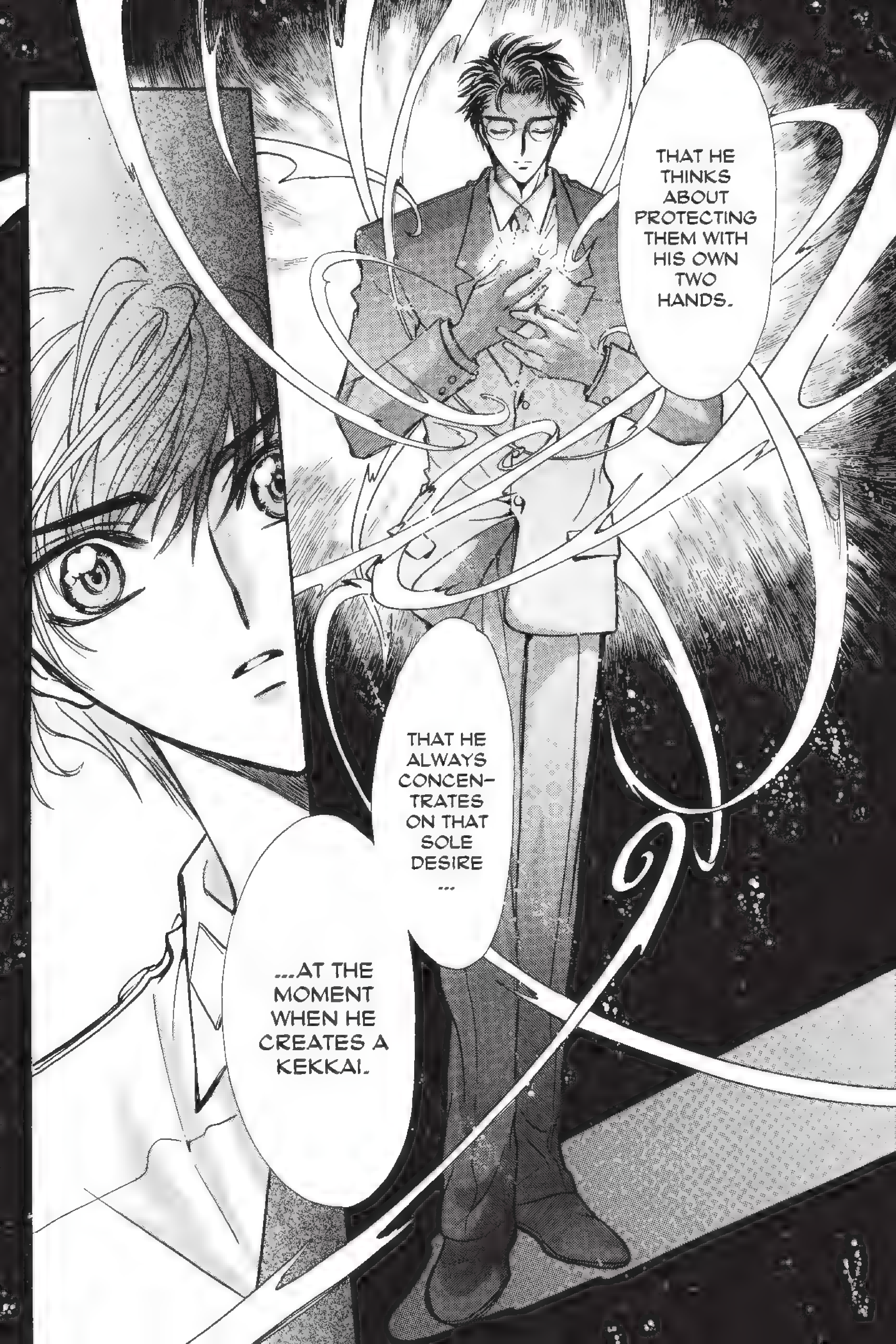

SZT
We have identified the man you rescued in Ikebukuro.
HE'S THE PRESIDENT OF TOJO PHARMACEUTICALS.
IT'S THE BIGGEST PHARMACEUTICAL COMPANY IN JAPAN.
A DRUG COMPANY PRESIDENT?
BUT WHY WOULD FUMA—
FOR A LONG TIME NOW, THERE HAVE BEEN SUSPICIONS CIRCULATING ABOUT THAT COMPANY.
RUMORS THAT THEY'RE DEVELOPING...
...SOMETHING IN A HIDDEN UNDERGROUND FACILITY. SOMETHING THAT REQUIRES AN ENORMOUS BUDGET.

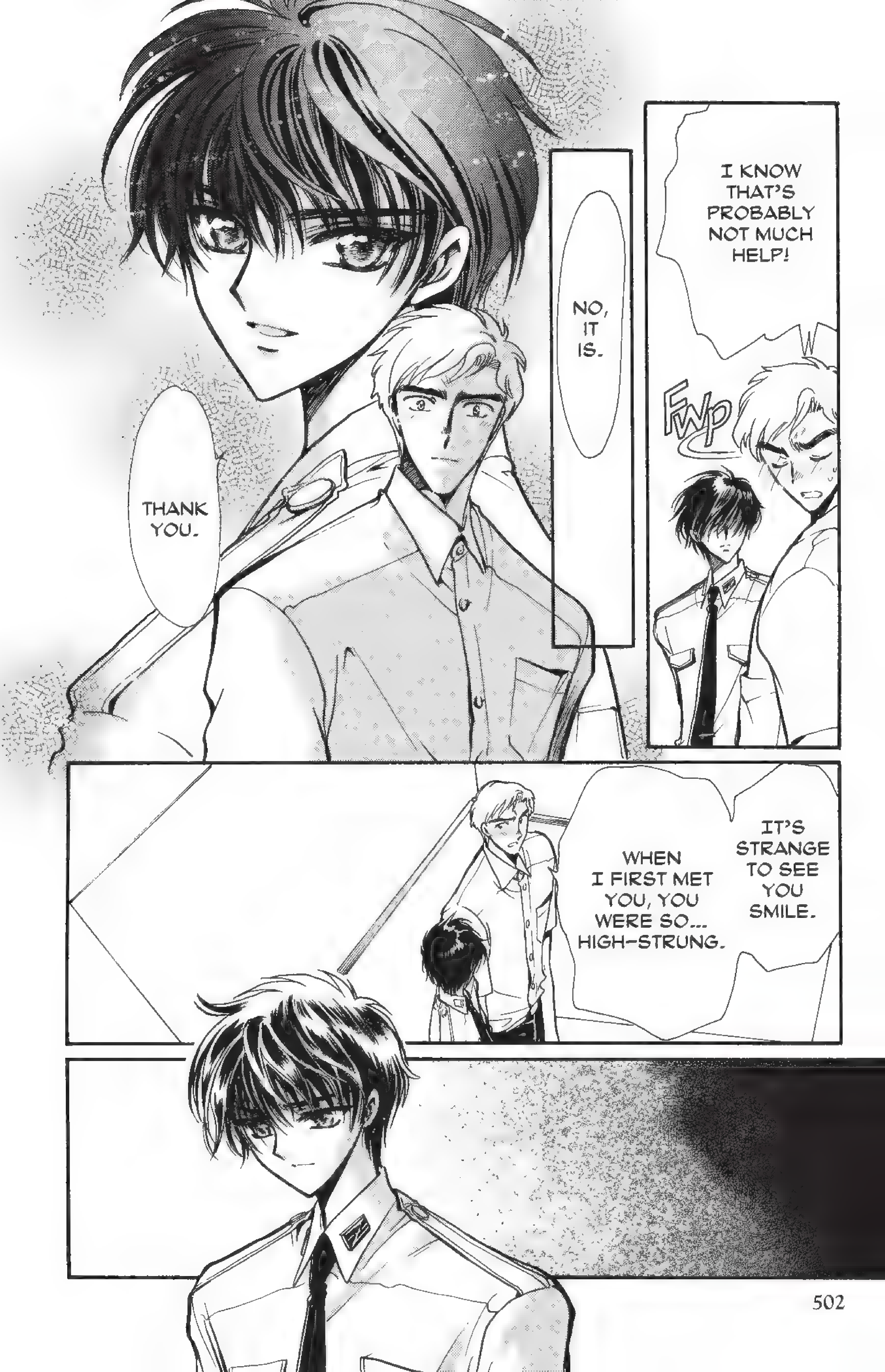

WHAT IS IT?
President Tojo is well enough to have visitors now.
Will you go see him?
YEAH.
I THINK I WILL.
MAYBE HE CAN TELL ME SOMETHING ABOUT FUMA.
I understand.

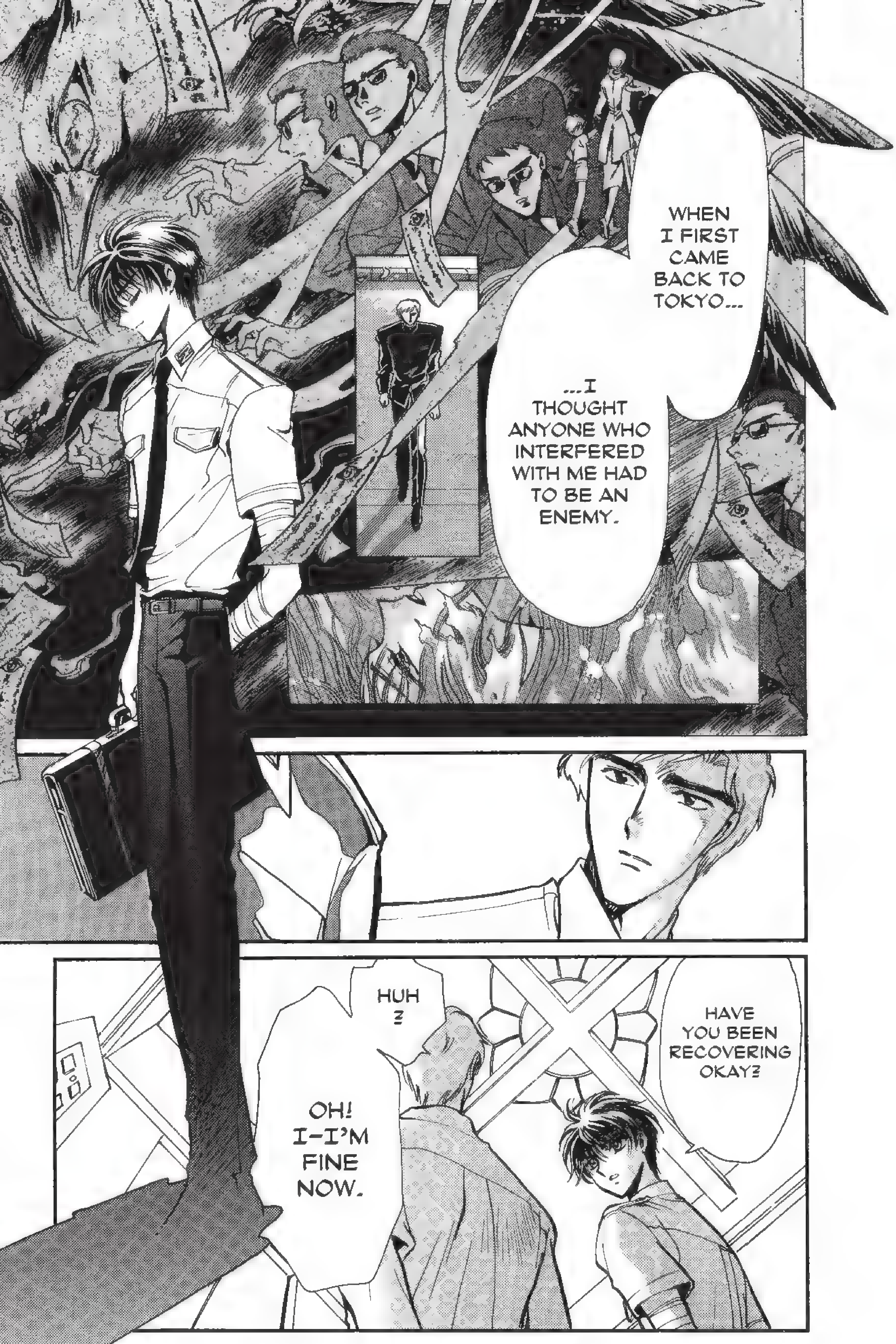

TMP
Please escort him, Lord Saiki.
AS YOU WISH.
THERE'S ONE MORE THING I WANTED TO ASK.
BY DEFINITION, A DRAGON OF HEAVEN HAS TO BE ABLE TO CREATE A KEKKAI, RIGHT?
Yes.
CAN YOU TEACH ME...
...WHAT I HAVE TO DO IN ORDER TO MAKE ONE?

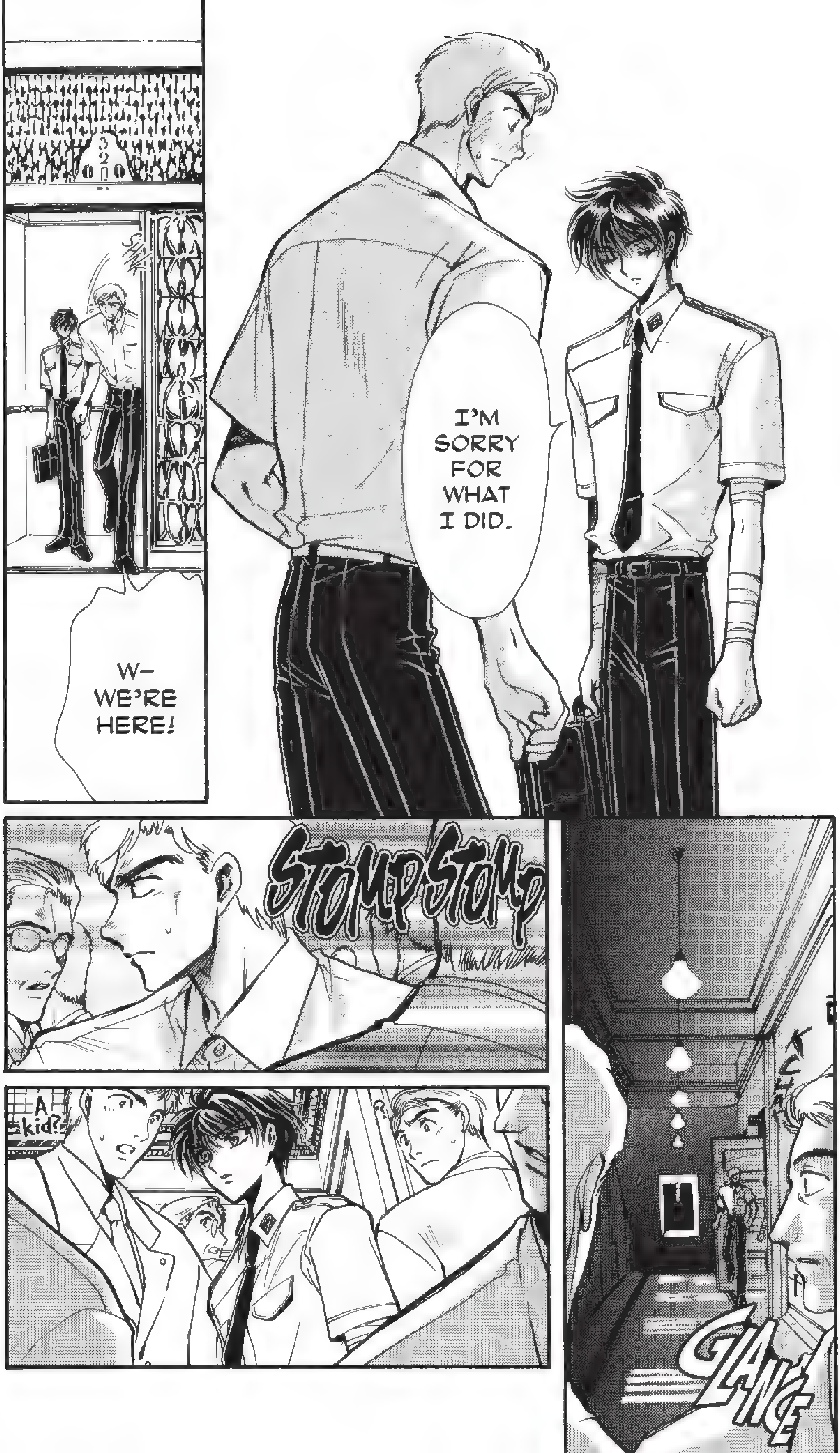

Only Dragons of Heaven...
...know how to exercise that power.
It is not something I can teach you.

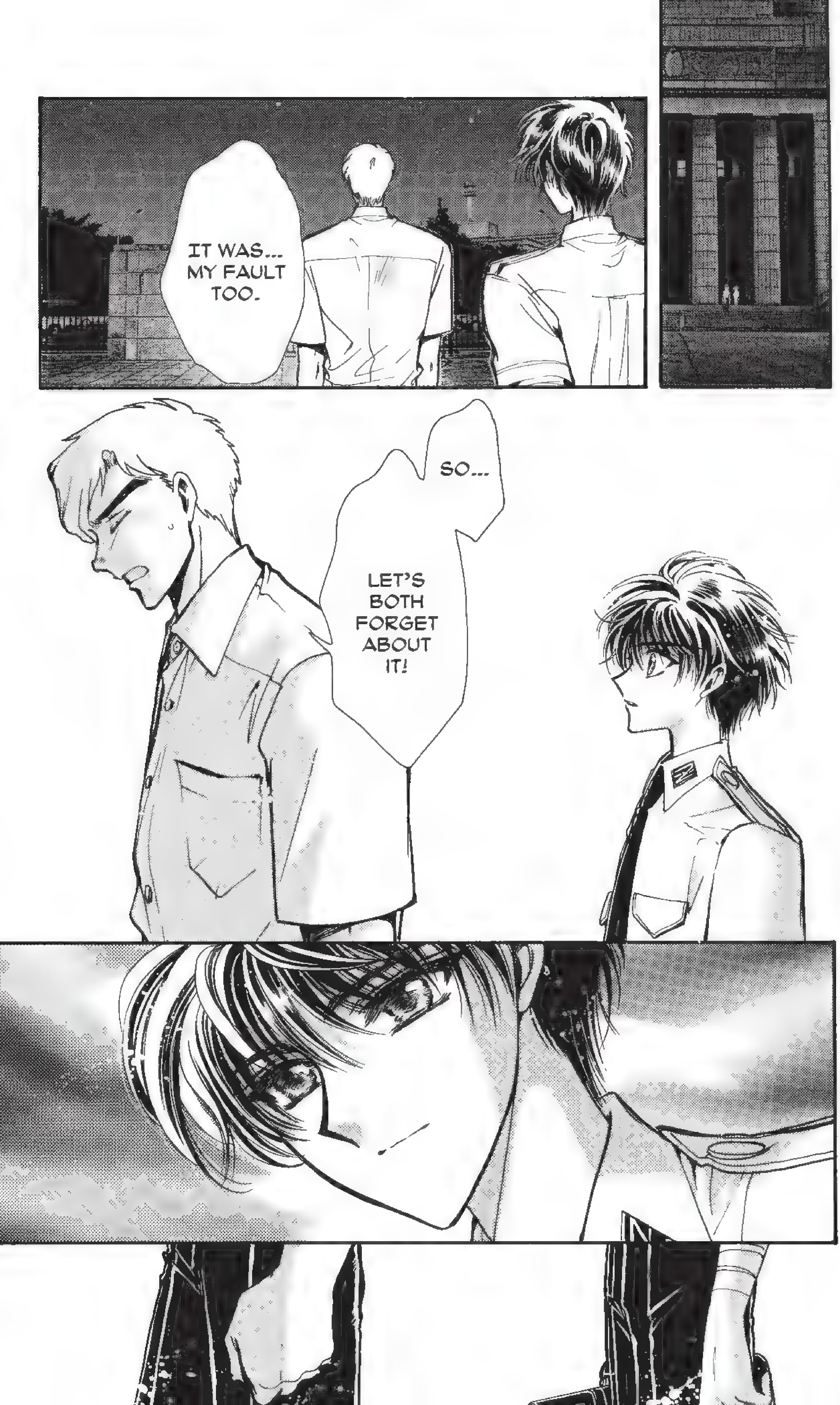

AHEM!
I ASKED MY UNCLE ABOUT IT ONCE.
ABOUT HOW HE MAKES A KEKKAI, I MEAN.
MR. AOKI?
WHAT DID HE SAY?
HE TOLD ME HE DOESN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW IT WORKS.
BUT HE SAID THAT WHILE HE'S DOING IT HE ALWAYS THINKS ABOUT THE THINGS THAT ARE MOST IMPORTANT TO HIM.

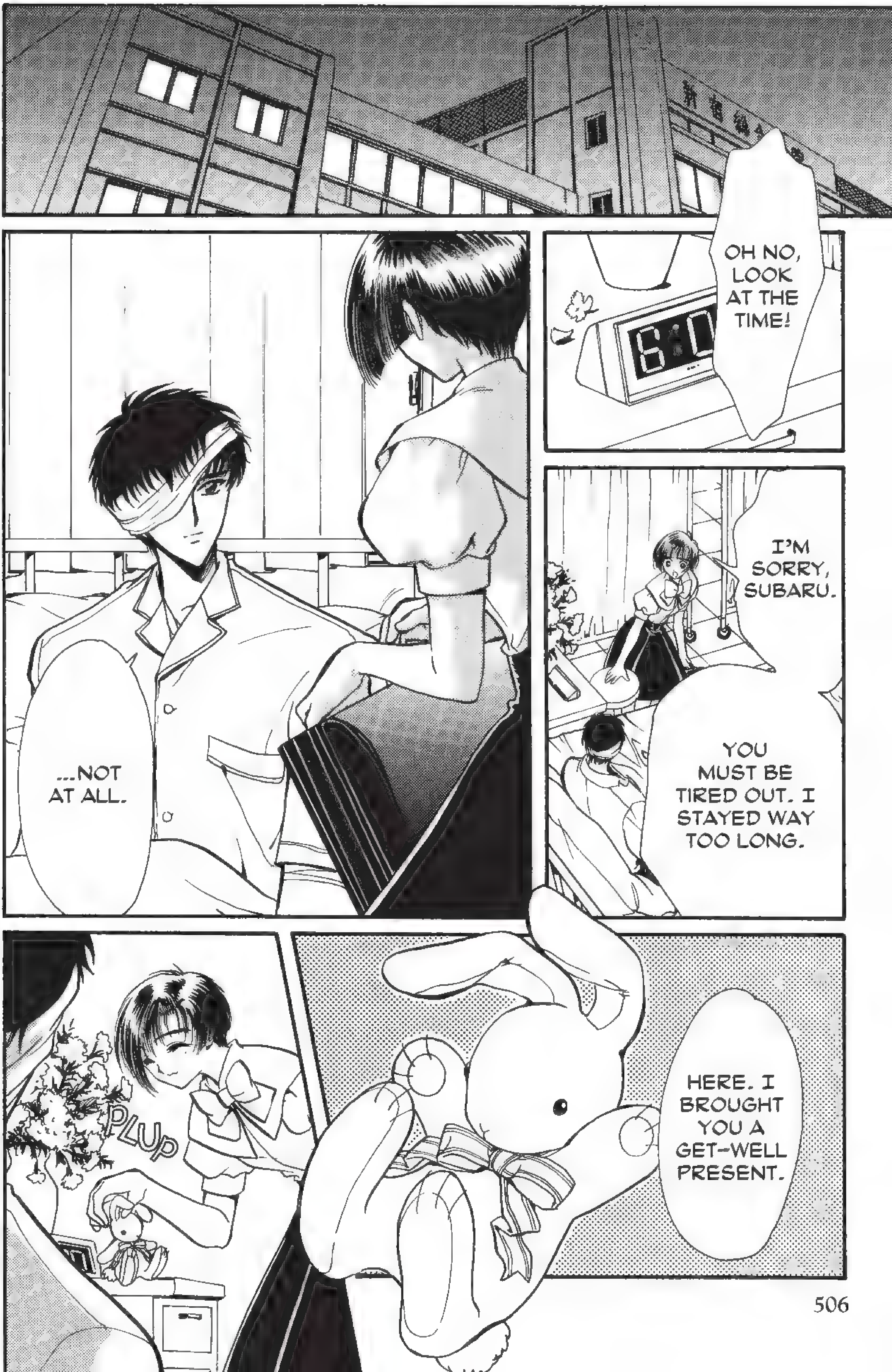

THAT HE THINKS ABOUT PROTECTING THEM WITH HIS OWN TWO HANDS.
THAT HE ALWAYS CONCENTRATES ON THAT SOLE DESIRE ...
...AT THE MOMENT WHEN HE CREATES A KEKKAI.

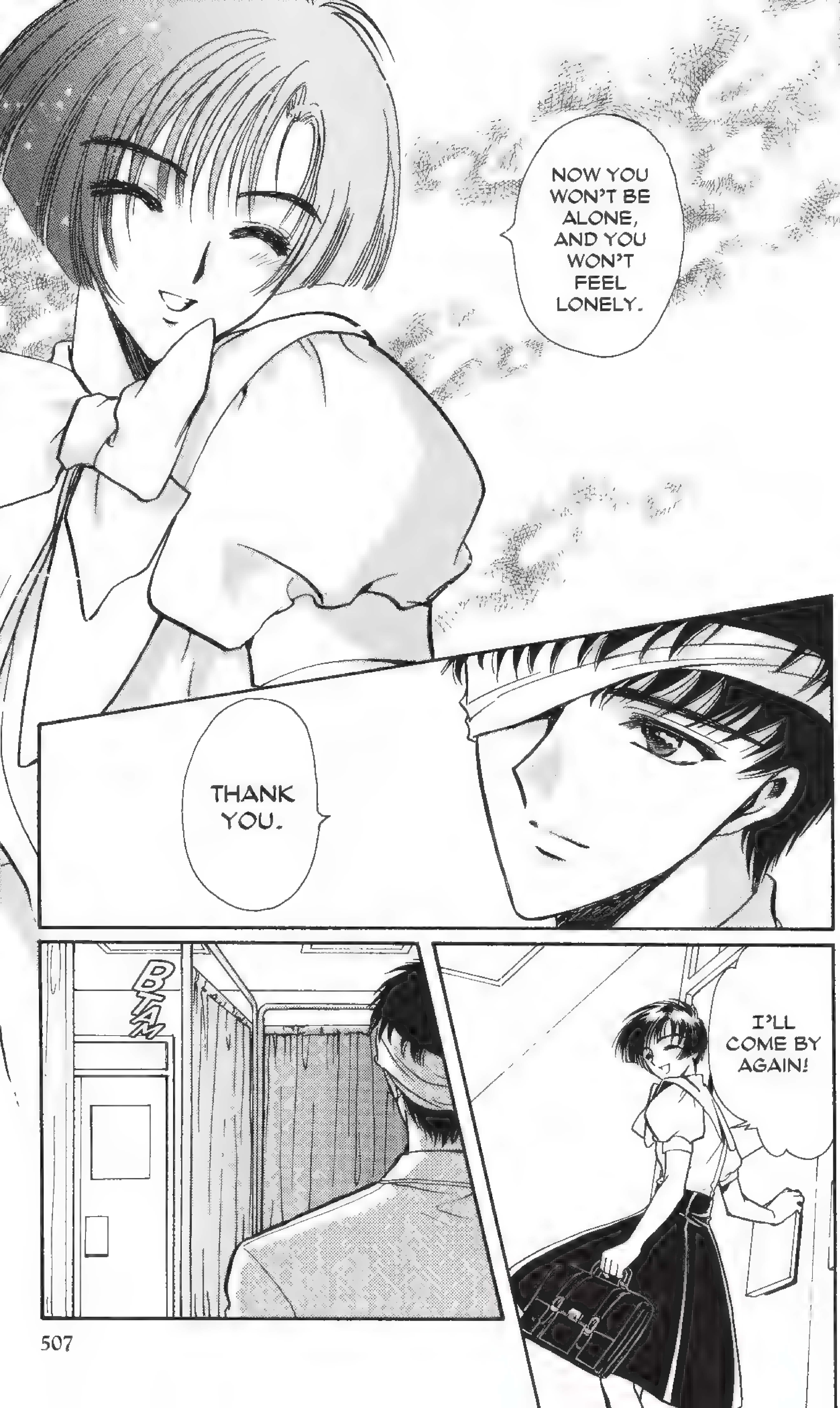

I KNOW THAT'S PROBABLY NOT MUCH HELP!
FWP
NO, IT IS.
THANK YOU.
IT'S STRANGE TO SEE YOU SMILE.
WHEN I FIRST MET YOU, YOU WERE SO... HIGH-STRUNG.

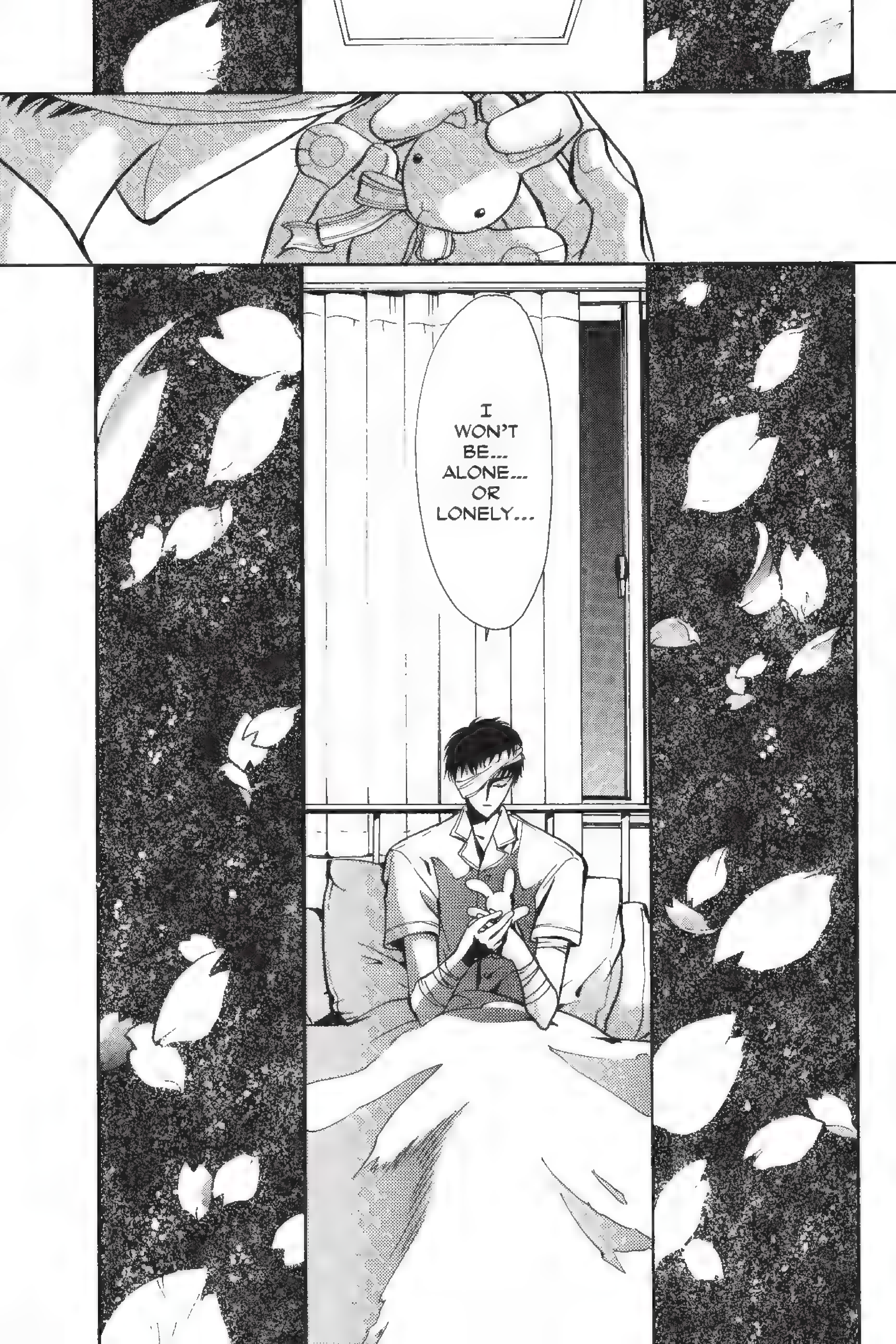

WHEN I FIRST CAME BACK TO TOKYO...
...I THOUGHT ANYONE WHO INTERFERED WITH ME HAD TO BE AN ENEMY.
HAVE YOU BEEN RECOVERING OKAY?
HUH?
OH! I-I'M FINE NOW.

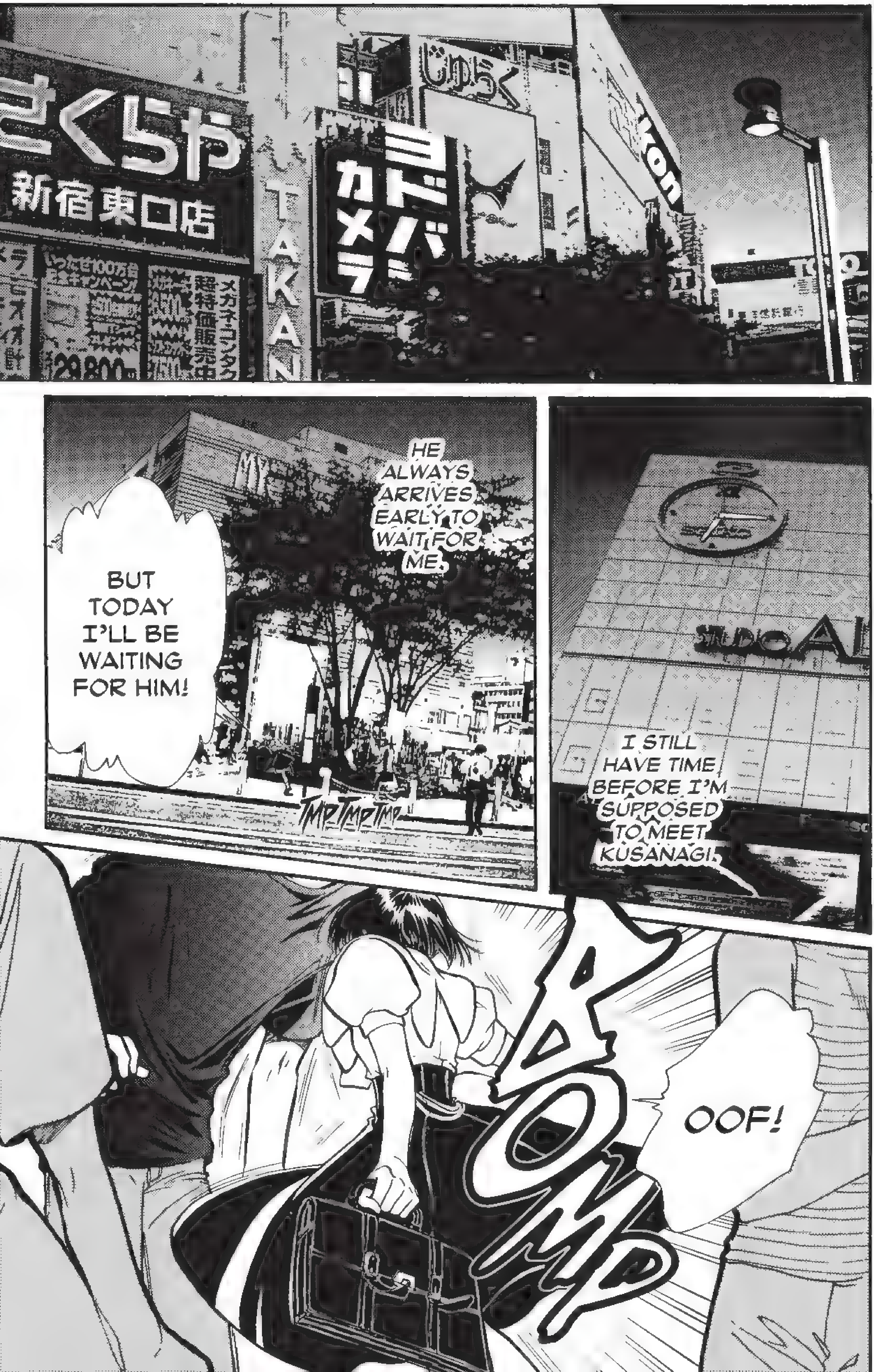

I'M SORRY FOR WHAT I DID.
3 2 1
SHING
W-WE'RE HERE!
GLANCE
STOMP STOMP
A kid?

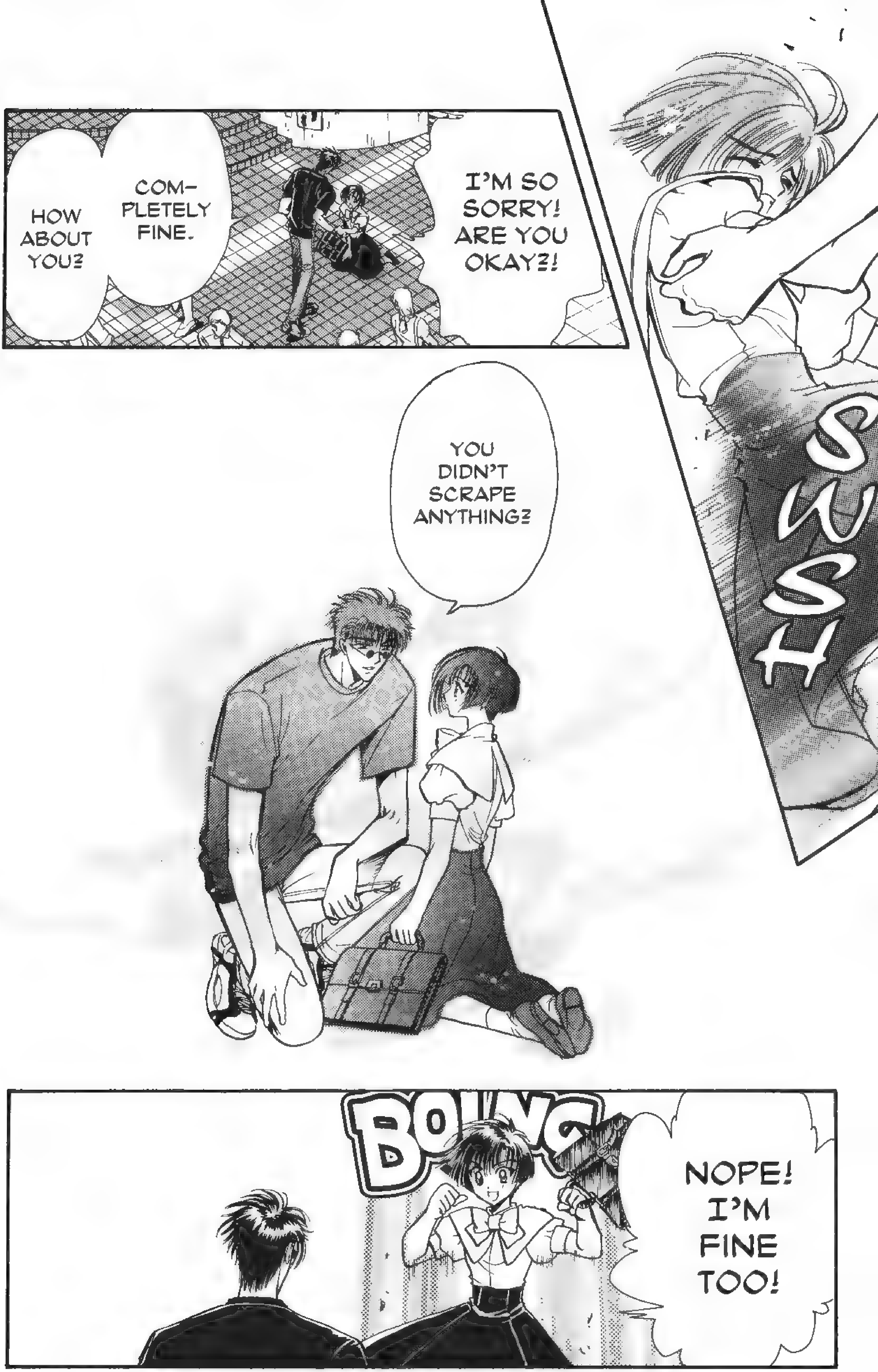

IT WAS... MY FAULT TOO.
SO...
LET'S BOTH FORGET ABOUT IT!

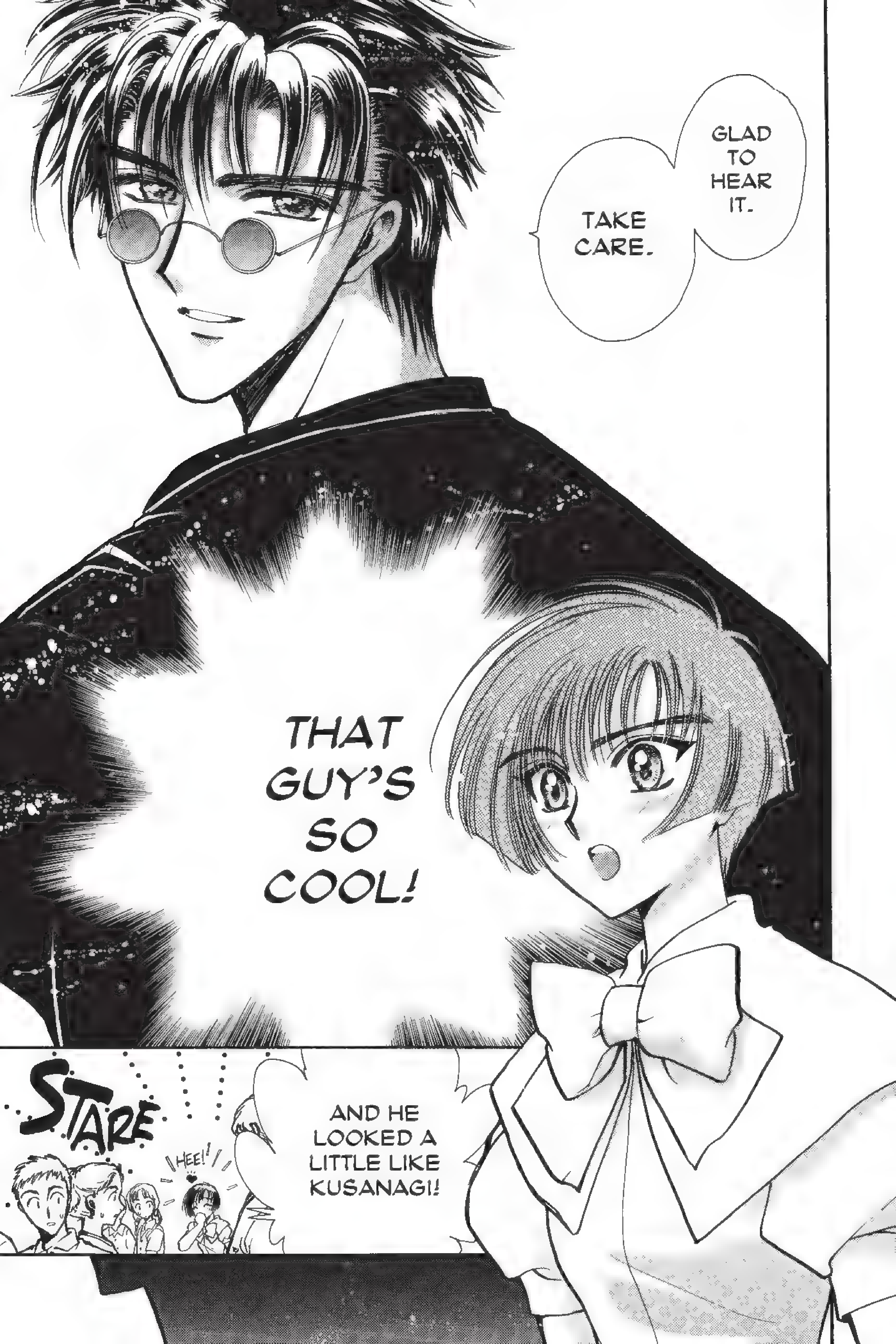

OH NO, LOOK AT THE TIME!
I'M SORRY, SUBARU.
YOU MUST BE TIRED OUT. I STAYED WAY TOO LONG.
...NOT AT ALL.
HERE. I BROUGHT YOU A GET-WELL PRESENT.
PLUp

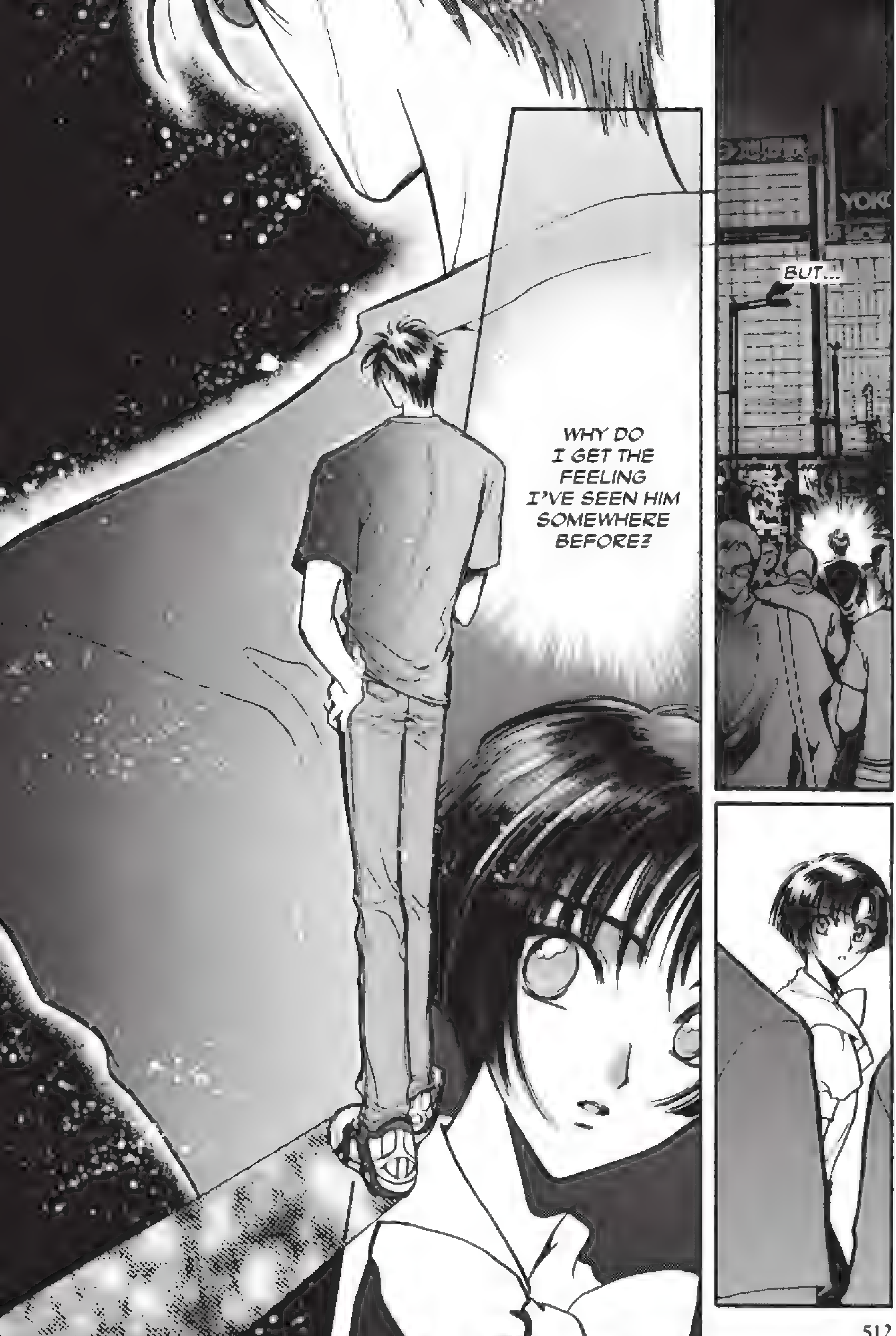

NOW YOU WON'T BE ALONE, AND YOU WON'T FEEL LONELY.
THANK YOU.
I'LL COME BY AGAIN!
BTAM

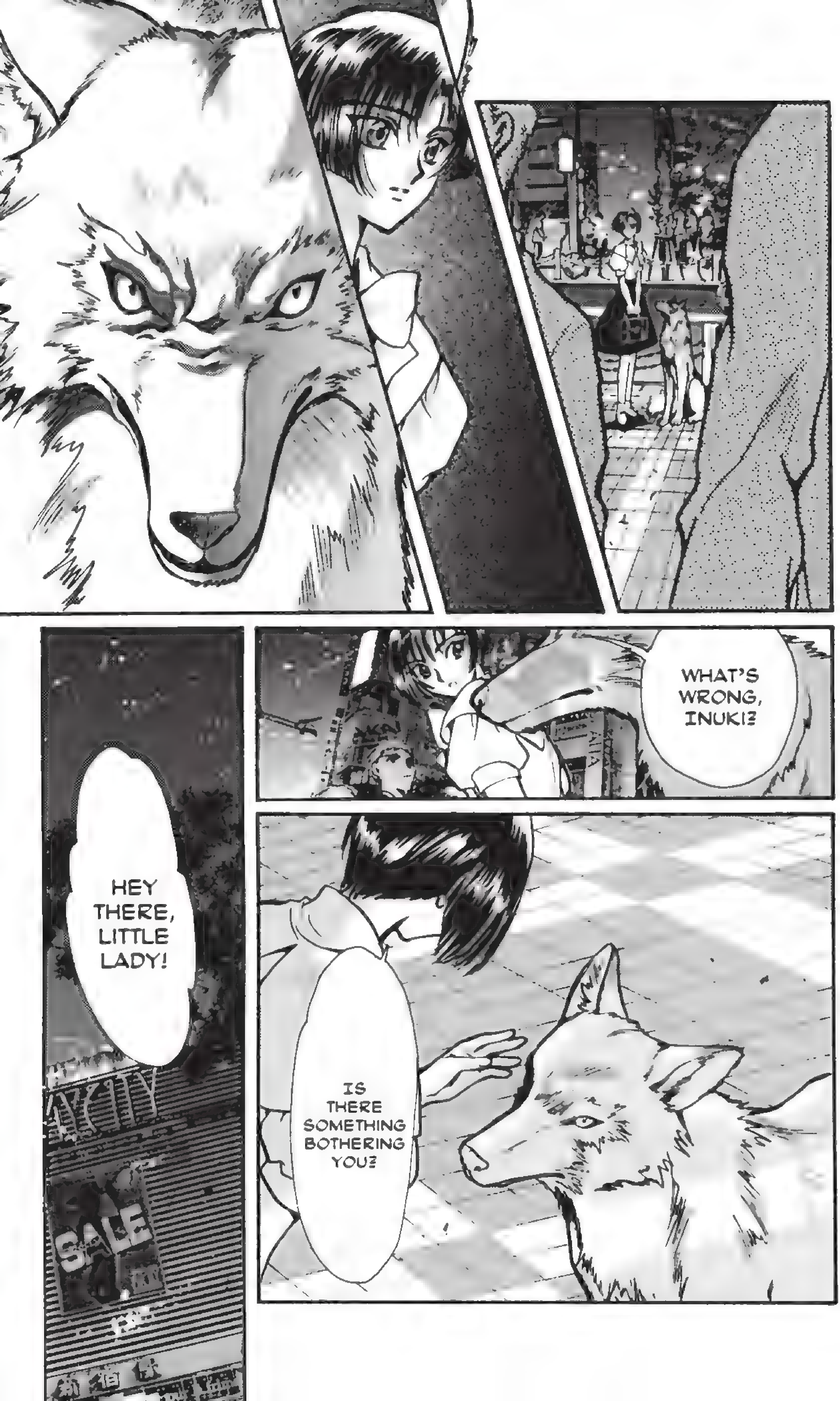

I WON'T BE... ALONE... OR LONELY...

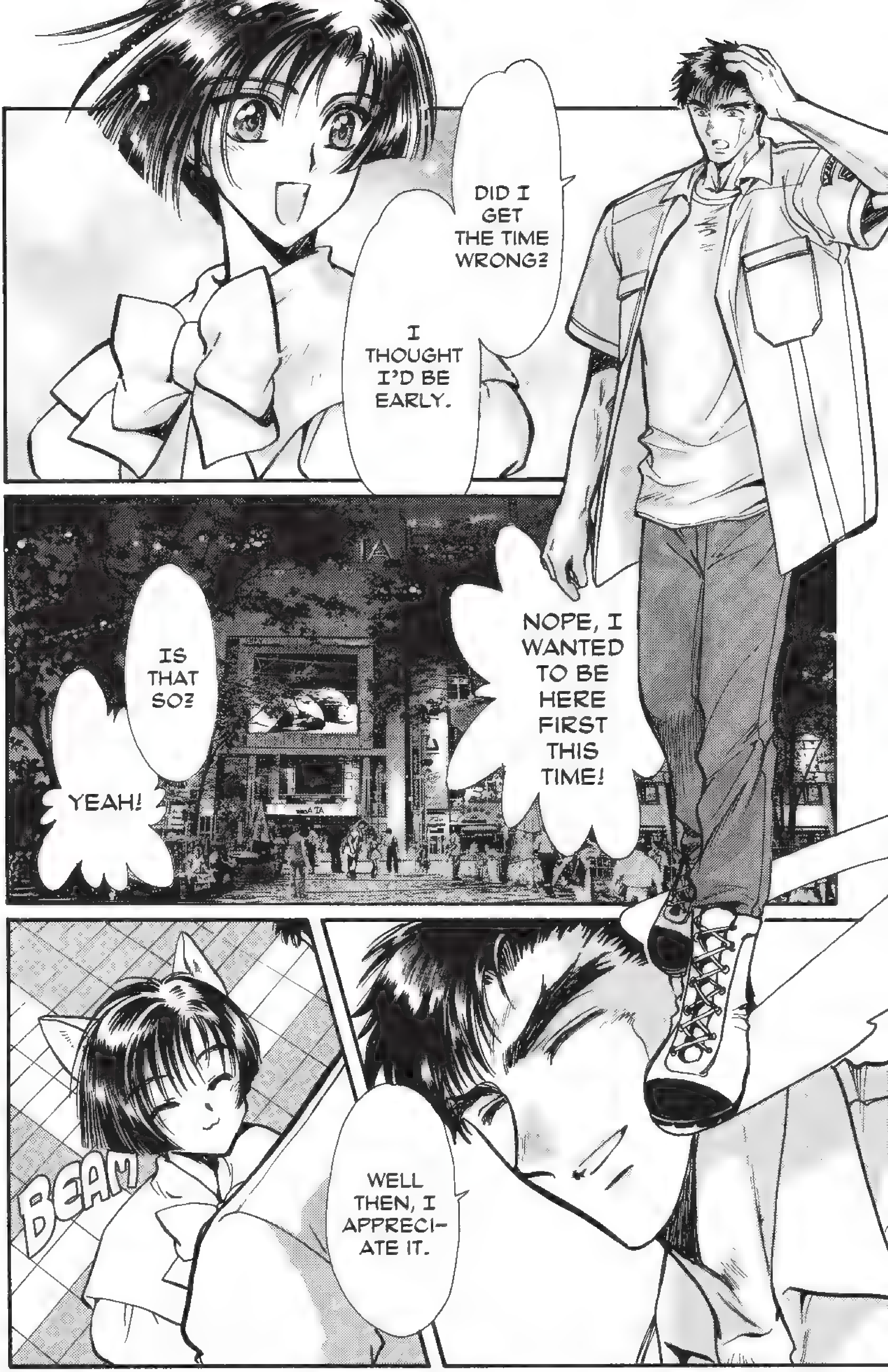

さくらや
新宿東口店
ヨドバシカメラ
TAKANO
じゅらく
メガネコンタクト
超特価販売中
29,800円
I STILL HAVE TIME BEFORE I'M SUPPOSED TO MEET KUSANAGI.
STUDIO ALTA
HE ALWAYS ARRIVES EARLY TO WAIT FOR ME.
BUT TODAY I'LL BE WAITING FOR HIM!
TMP TMP TMP
BOMP
OOF!

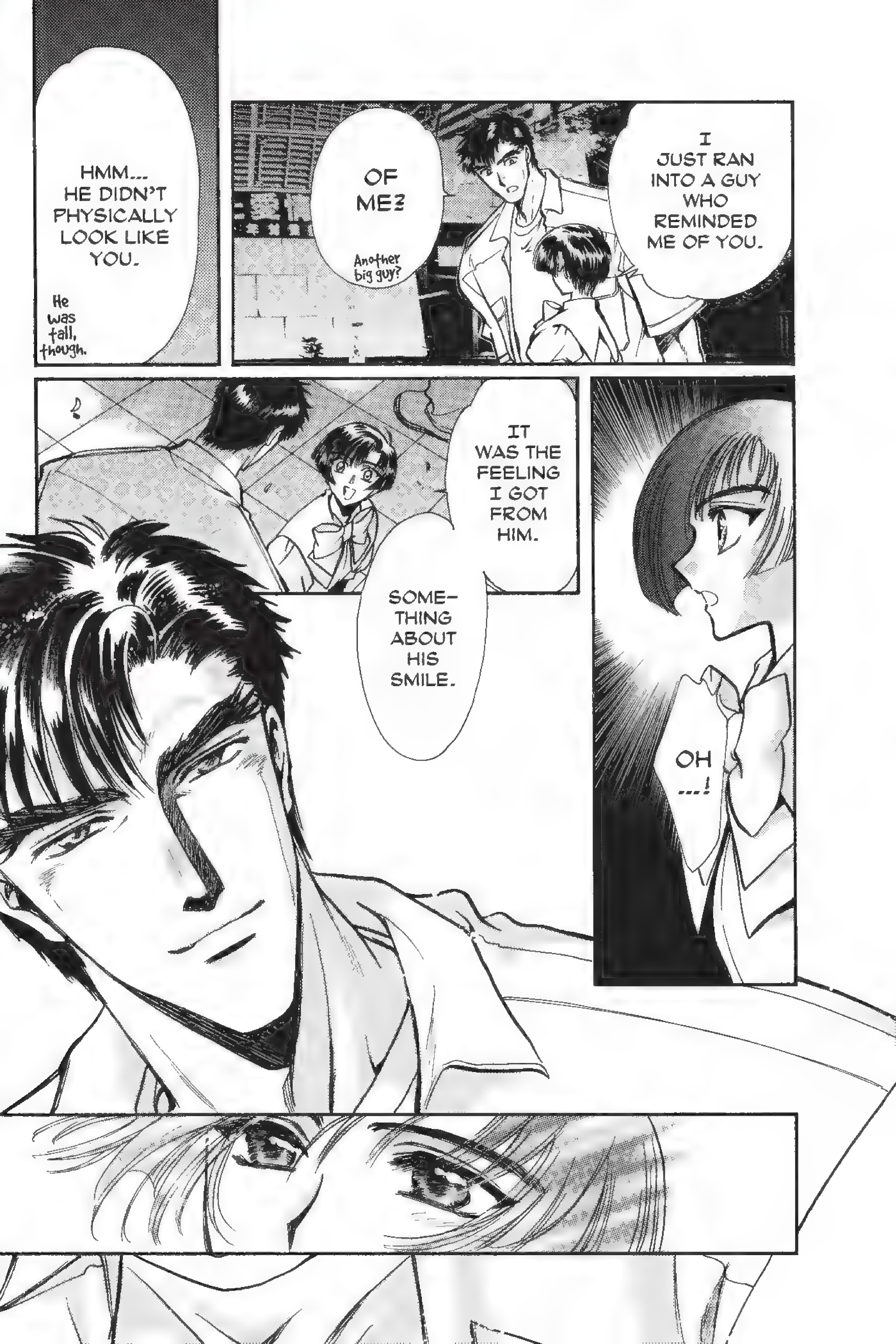

SWSH
I'M SO SORRY! ARE YOU OKAY?!
COM-PLETELY FINE.
HOW ABOUT YOU?
YOU DIDN'T SCRAPE ANYTHING?
BOING
NOPE! I'M FINE TOO!

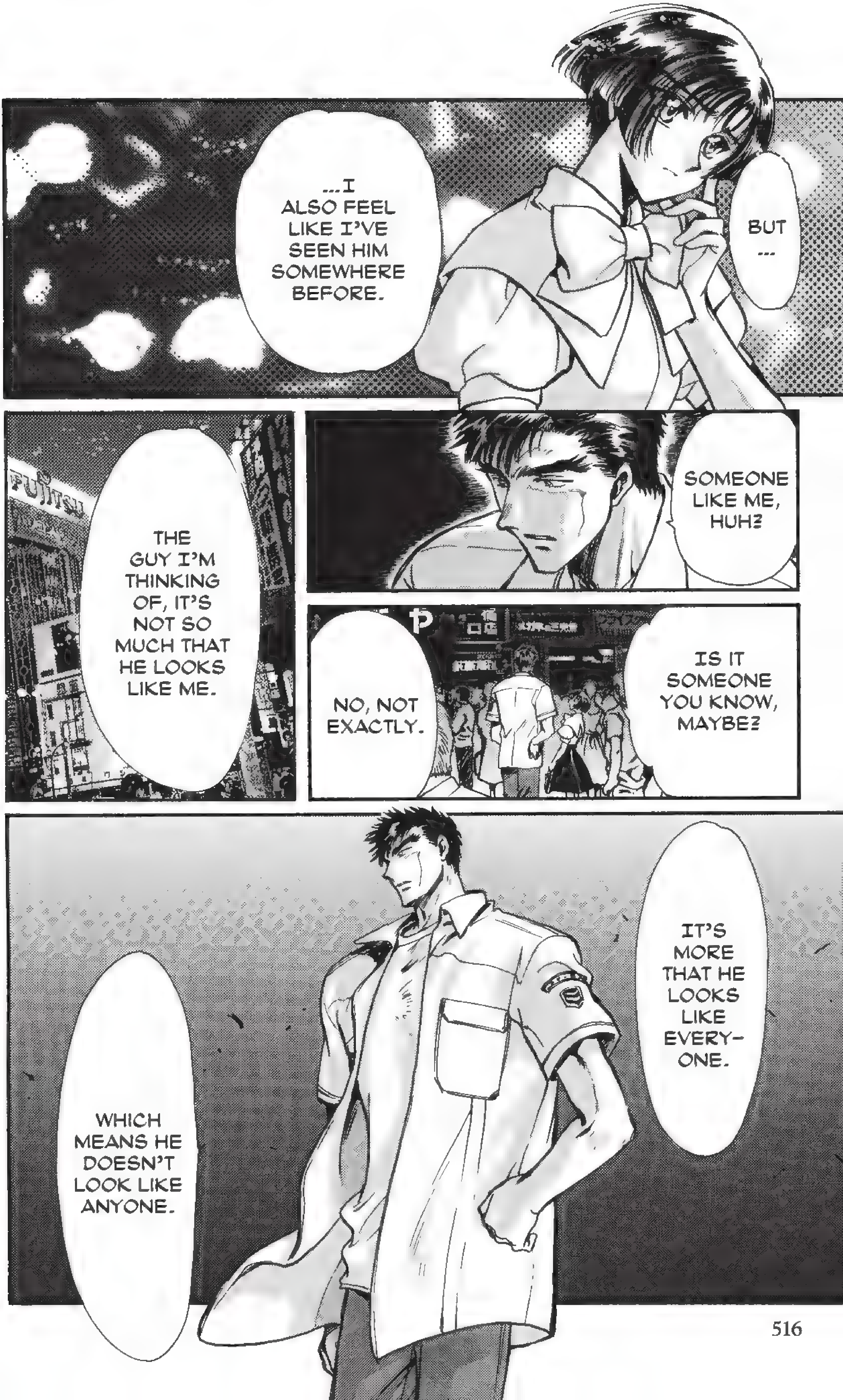

GLAD TO HEAR IT.
TAKE CARE.
THAT GUY'S SO COOL!
AND HE LOOKED A LITTLE LIKE KUSANAGI!
STARE
HEE!

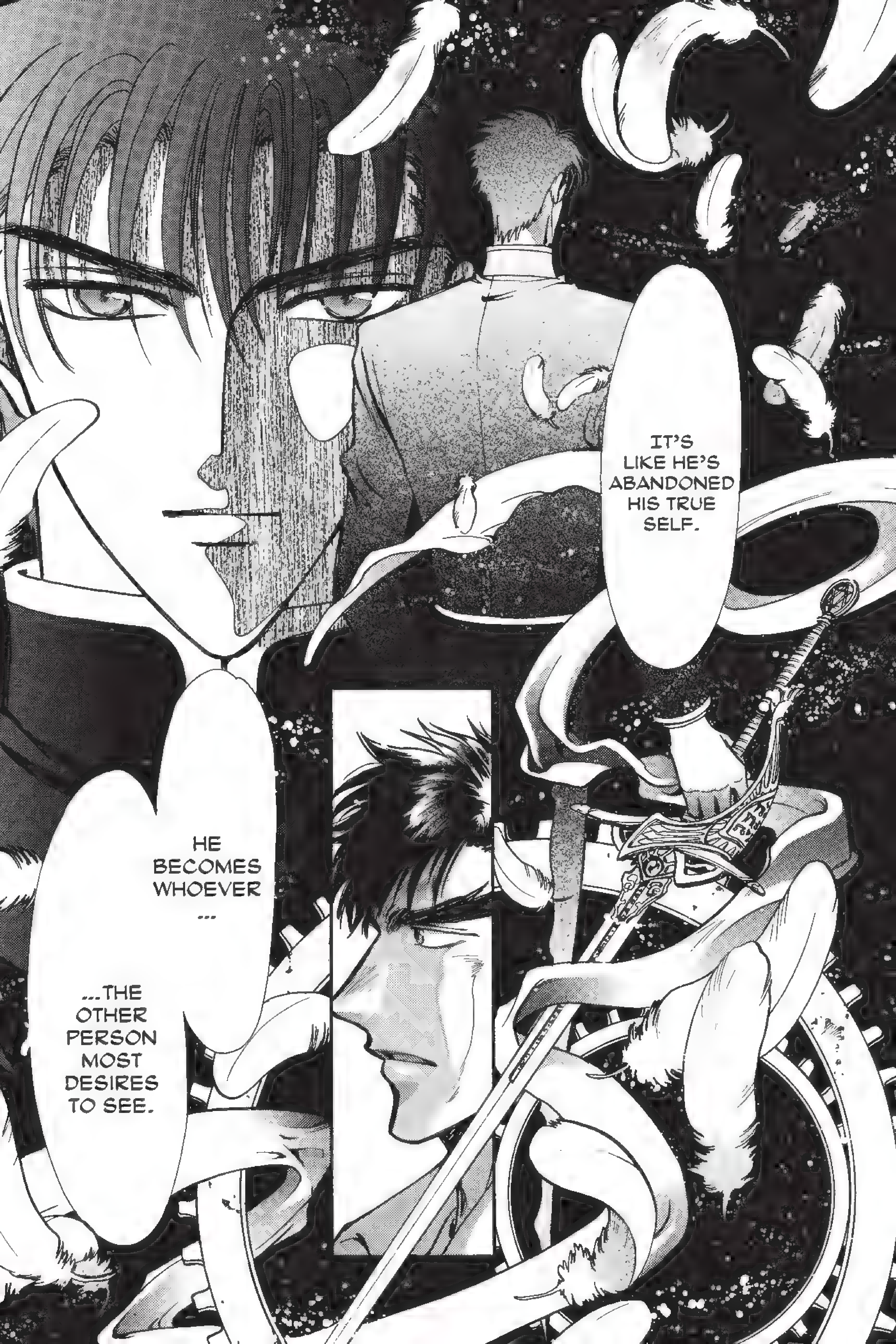

YOKO
BUT...
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE?

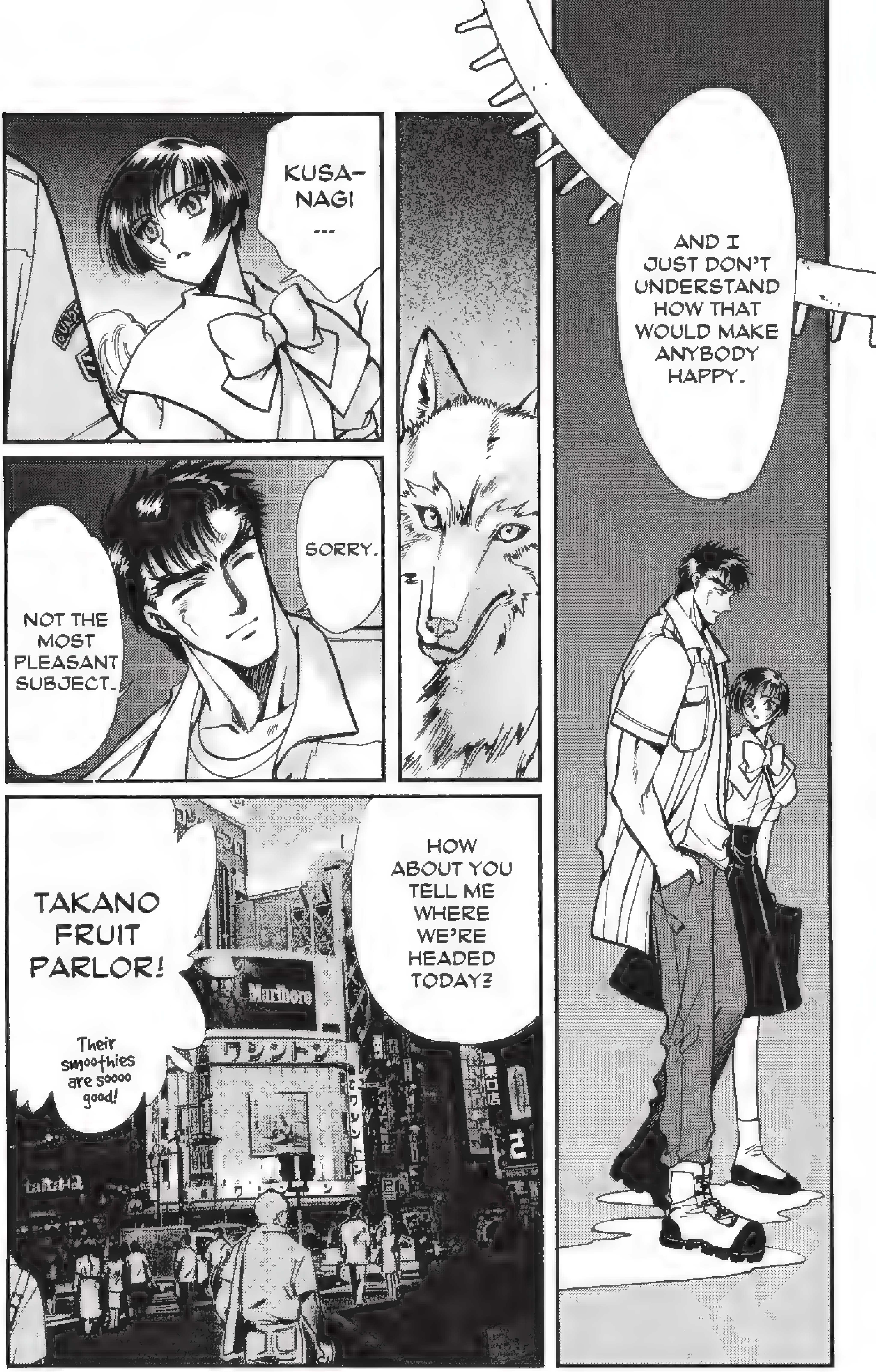

WHAT'S WRONG, INUKI?
IS THERE SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
HEY THERE, LITTLE LADY!
SALE

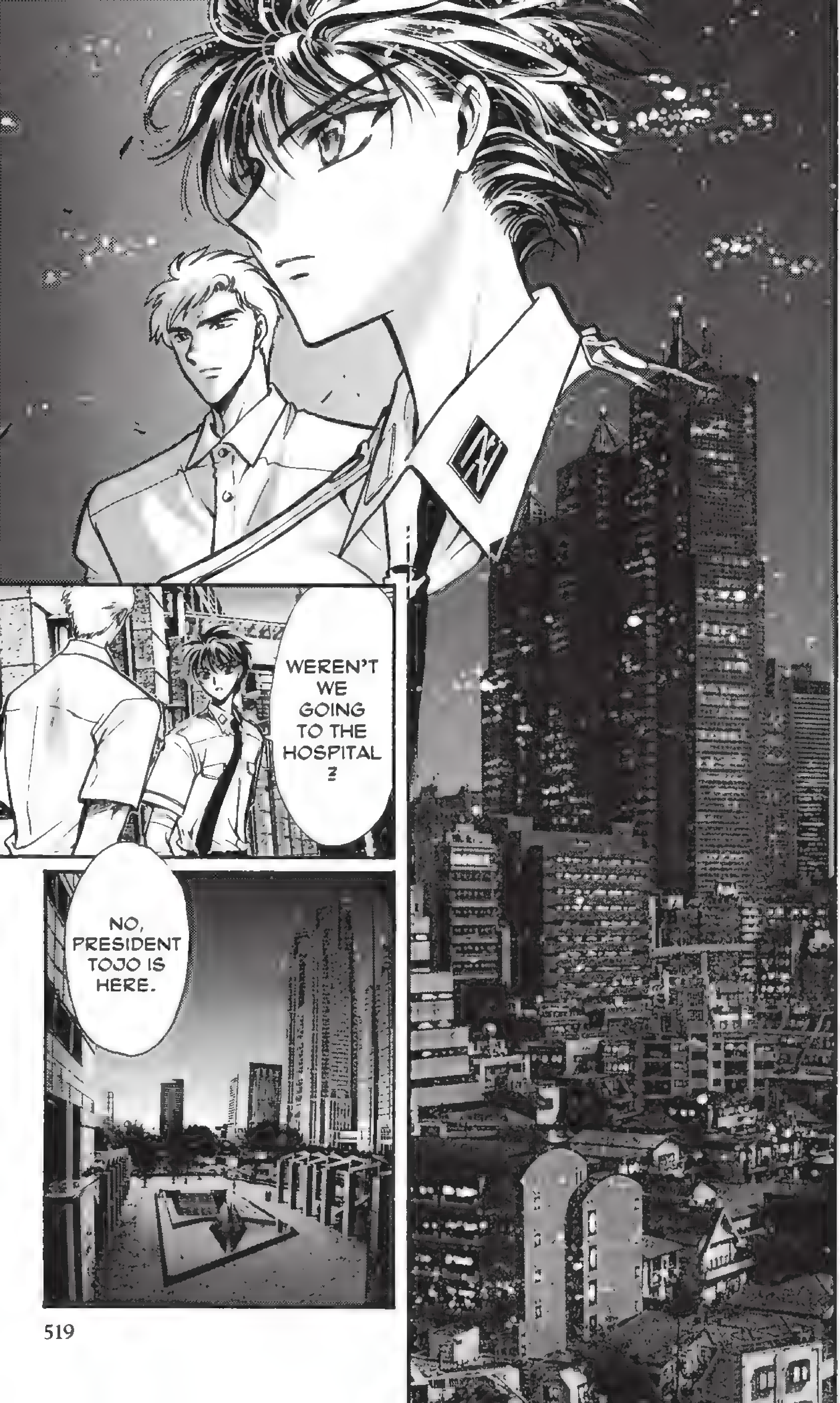

DID I GET THE TIME WRONG?
I THOUGHT I'D BE EARLY.
NOPE, I WANTED TO BE HERE FIRST THIS TIME!
IS THAT SO?
YEAH!
WELL THEN, I APPRECIATE IT.
BEAM

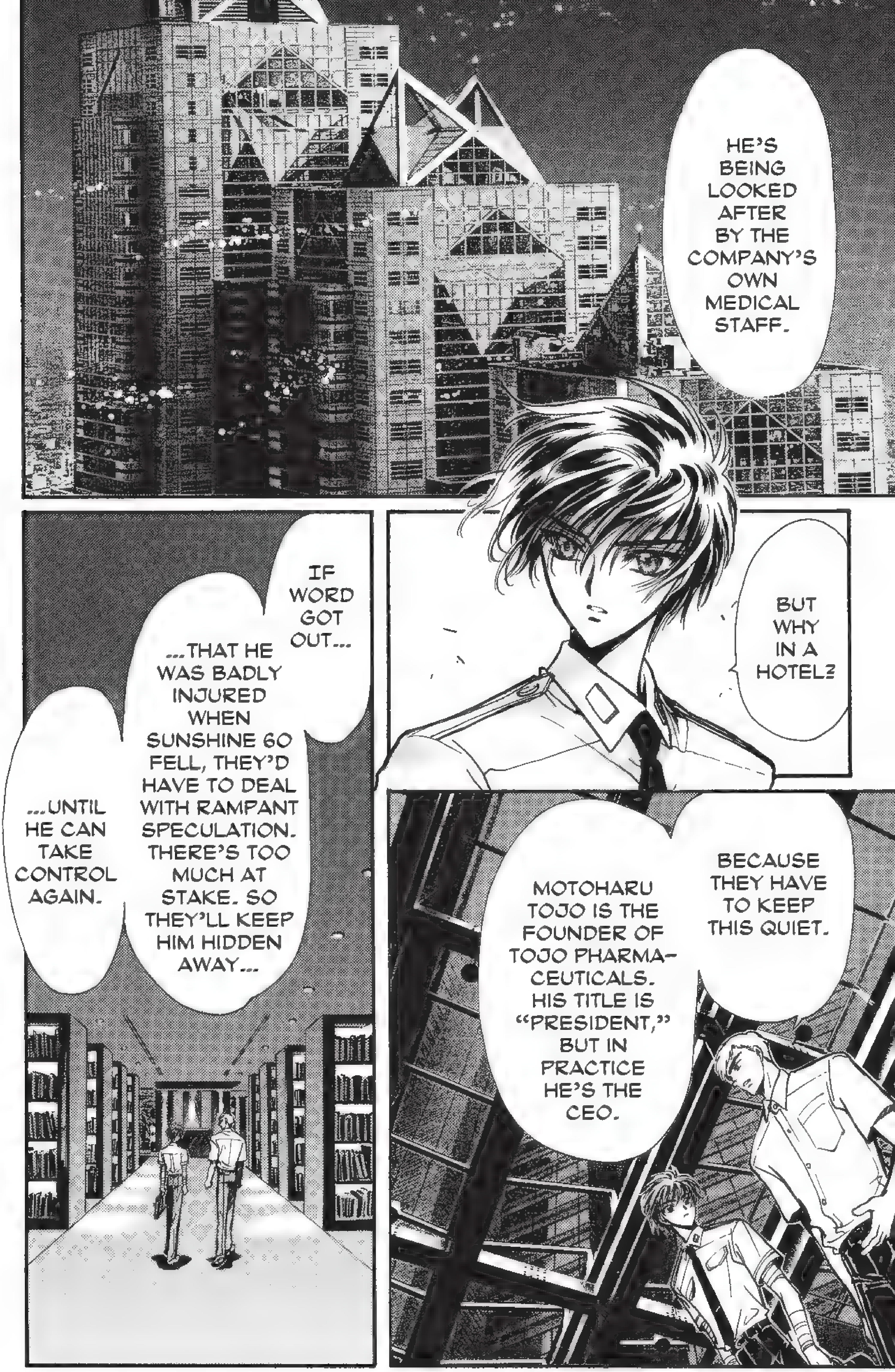

I JUST RAN INTO A GUY WHO REMINDED ME OF YOU.
OF ME?
Another big guy?
HMM... HE DIDN'T PHYSICALLY LOOK LIKE YOU.
He was tall, though.
IT WAS THE FEELING I GOT FROM HIM.
SOMETHING ABOUT HIS SMILE.
OH ...!

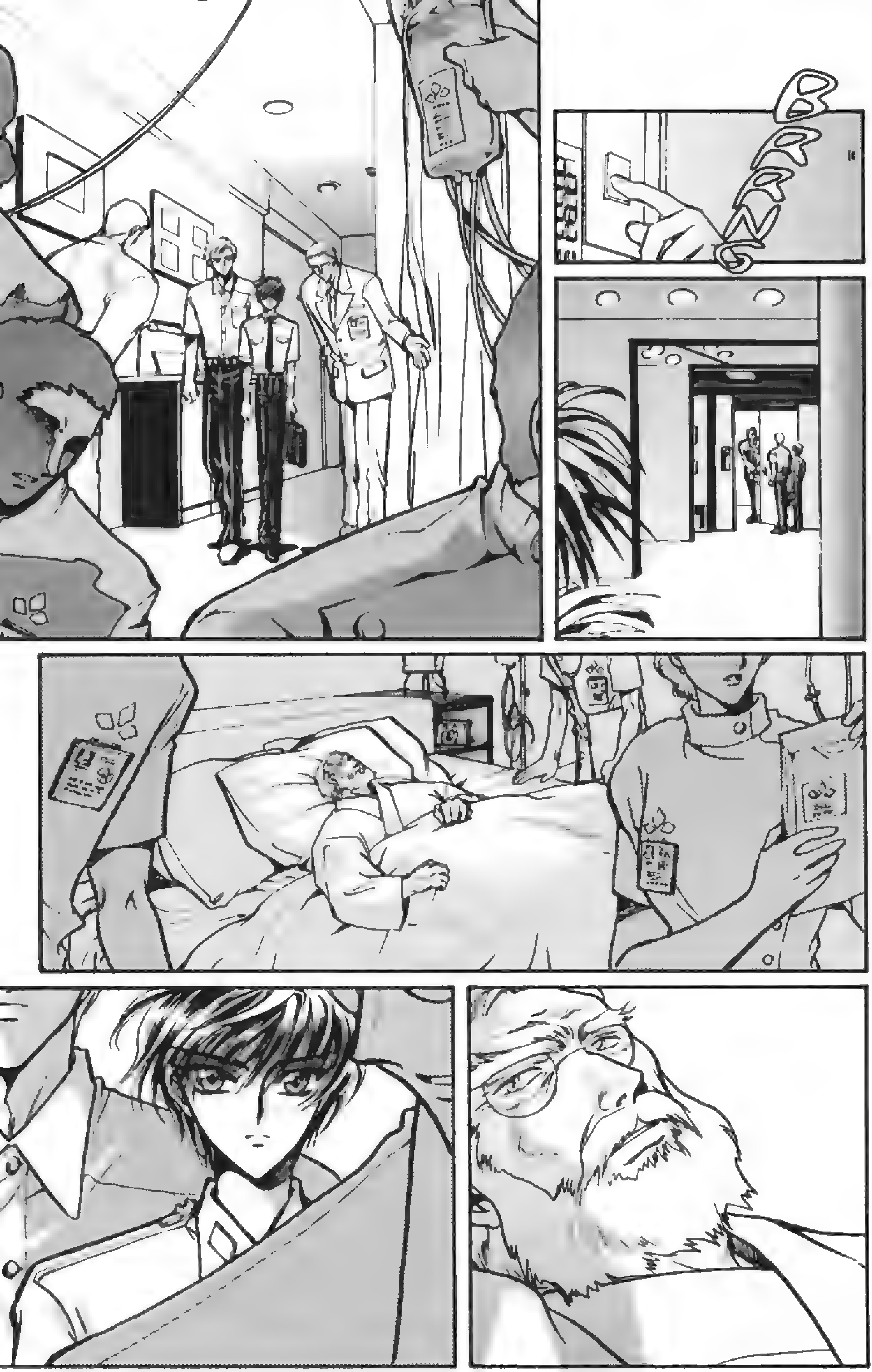

BUT ...
...I ALSO FEEL LIKE I'VE SEEN HIM SOMEWHERE BEFORE.
SOMEONE LIKE ME, HUH?
IS IT SOMEONE YOU KNOW, MAYBE?
NO, NOT EXACTLY.
FUJITSU
THE GUY I'M THINKING OF, IT'S NOT SO MUCH THAT HE LOOKS LIKE ME.
IT'S MORE THAT HE LOOKS LIKE EVERYONE.
WHICH MEANS HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE ANYONE.

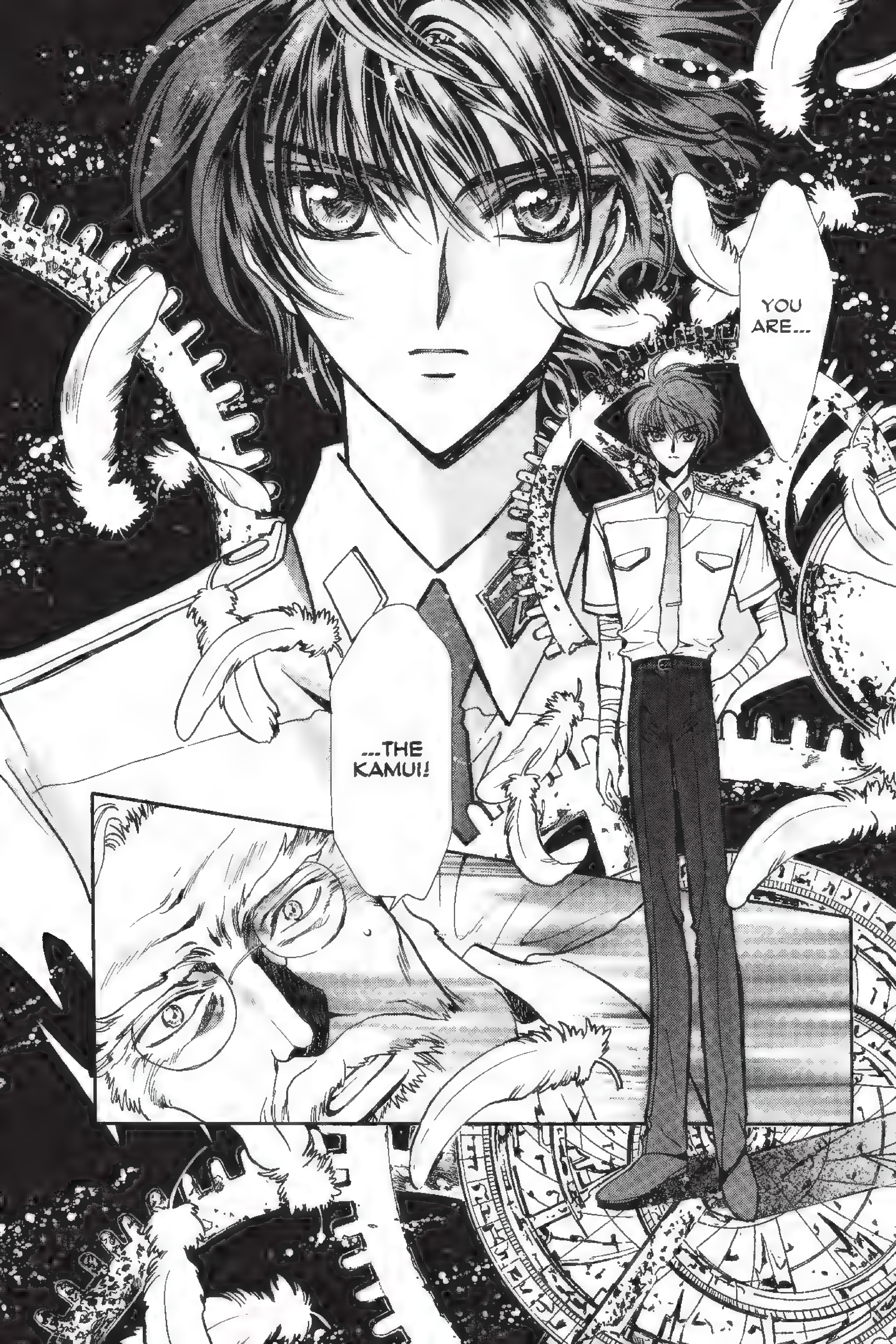

IT'S LIKE HE'S ABANDONED HIS TRUE SELF.
HE BECOMES WHOEVER ...
...THE OTHER PERSON MOST DESIRES TO SEE.

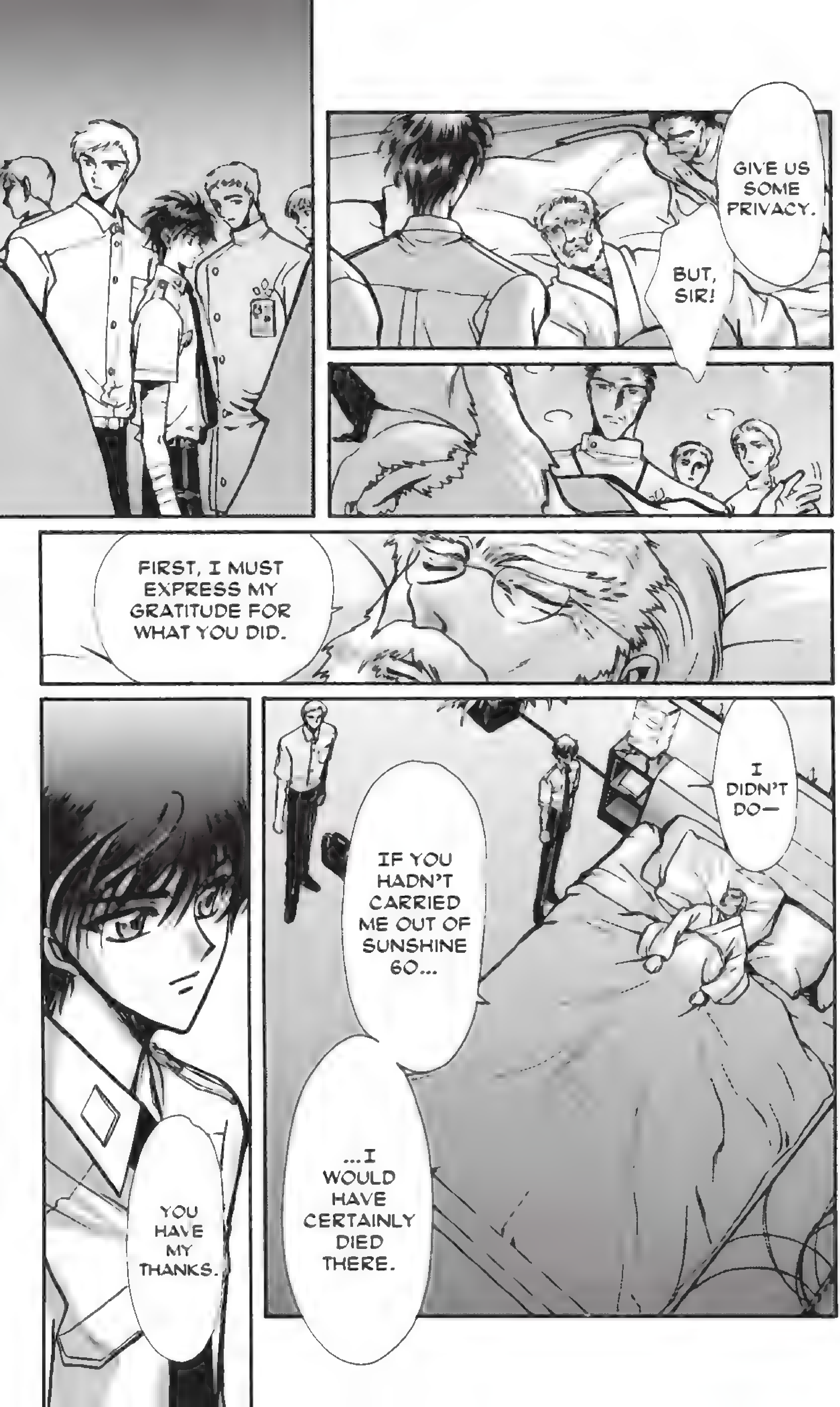

AND I JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THAT WOULD MAKE ANYBODY HAPPY.
KUSA-NAGI ...
SORRY.
NOT THE MOST PLEASANT SUBJECT.
HOW ABOUT YOU TELL ME WHERE WE'RE HEADED TODAY?
TAKANO FRUIT PARLOR!
Their smoothies are soooo good!
Marlboro
ワシントン

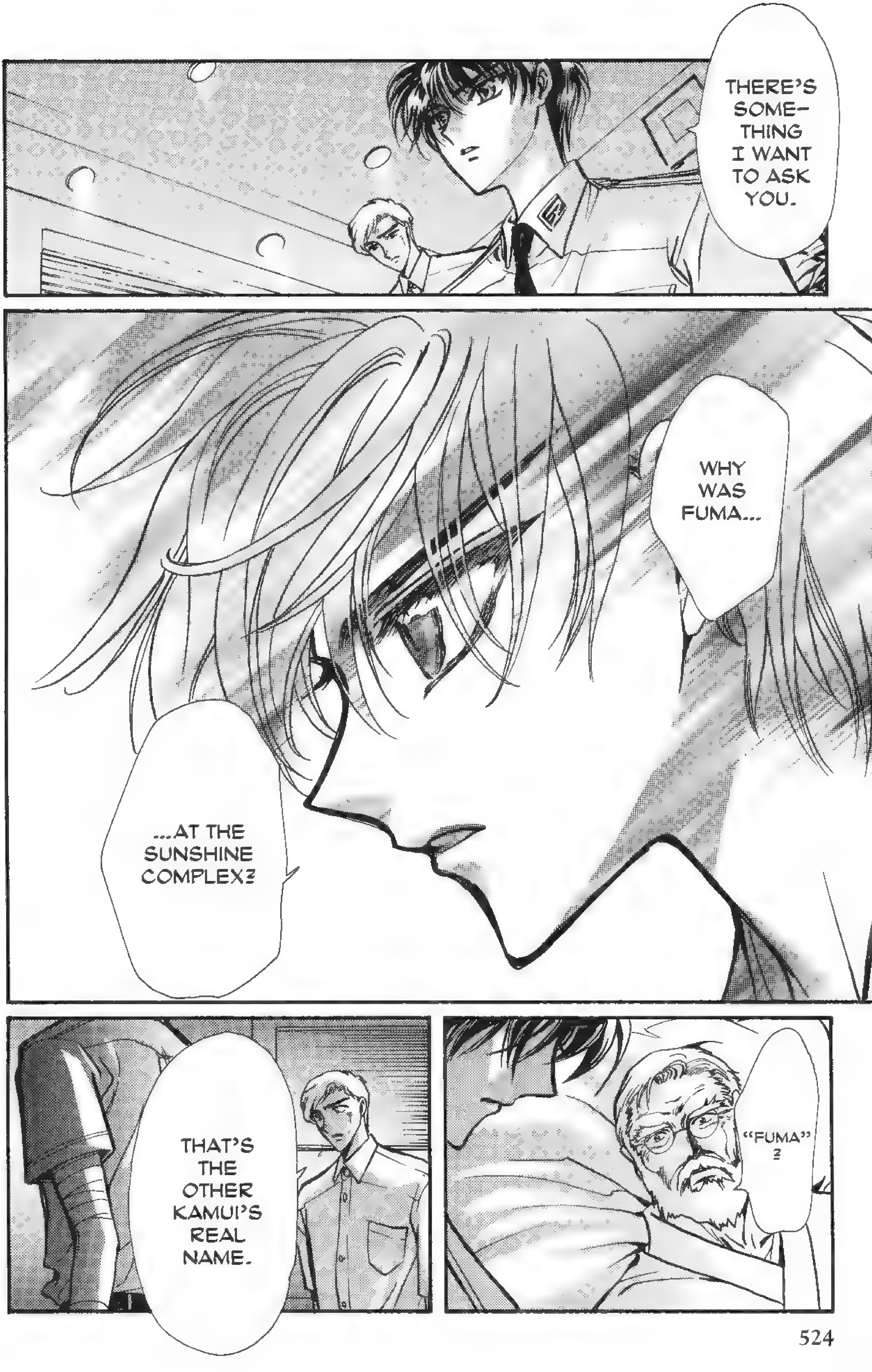

WEREN'T WE GOING TO THE HOSPITAL ?
NO, PRESIDENT TOJO IS HERE.

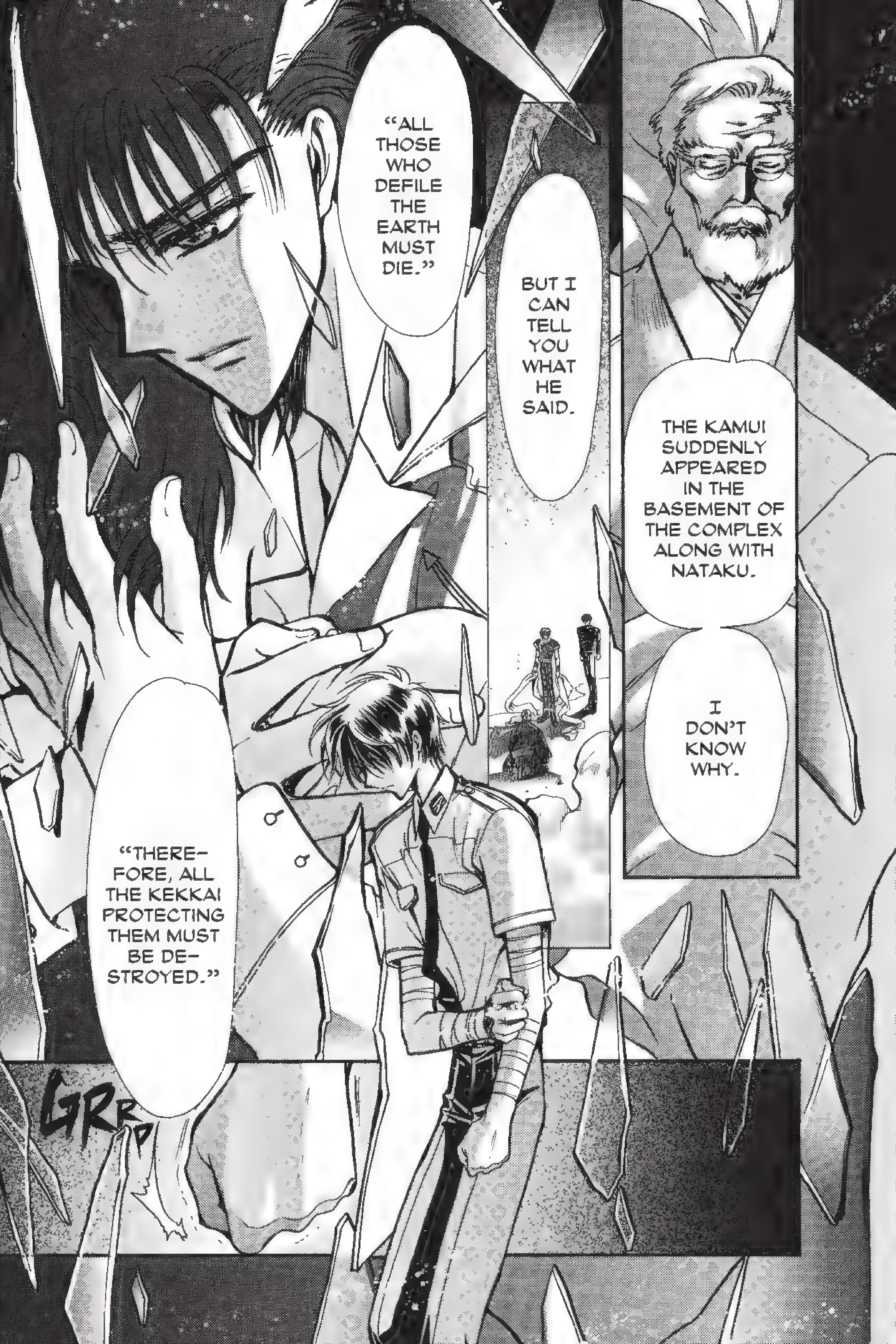

HE'S BEING LOOKED AFTER BY THE COMPANY'S OWN MEDICAL STAFF.
BUT WHY IN A HOTEL?
BECAUSE THEY HAVE TO KEEP THIS QUIET.
MOTOHARU TOJO IS THE FOUNDER OF TOJO PHARMACEUTICALS. HIS TITLE IS "PRESIDENT," BUT IN PRACTICE HE'S THE CEO.
IF WORD GOT OUT...
...THAT HE WAS BADLY INJURED WHEN SUNSHINE 60 FELL, THEY'D HAVE TO DEAL WITH RAMPANT SPECULATION. THERE'S TOO MUCH AT STAKE. SO THEY'LL KEEP HIM HIDDEN AWAY...
...UNTIL HE CAN TAKE CONTROL AGAIN.

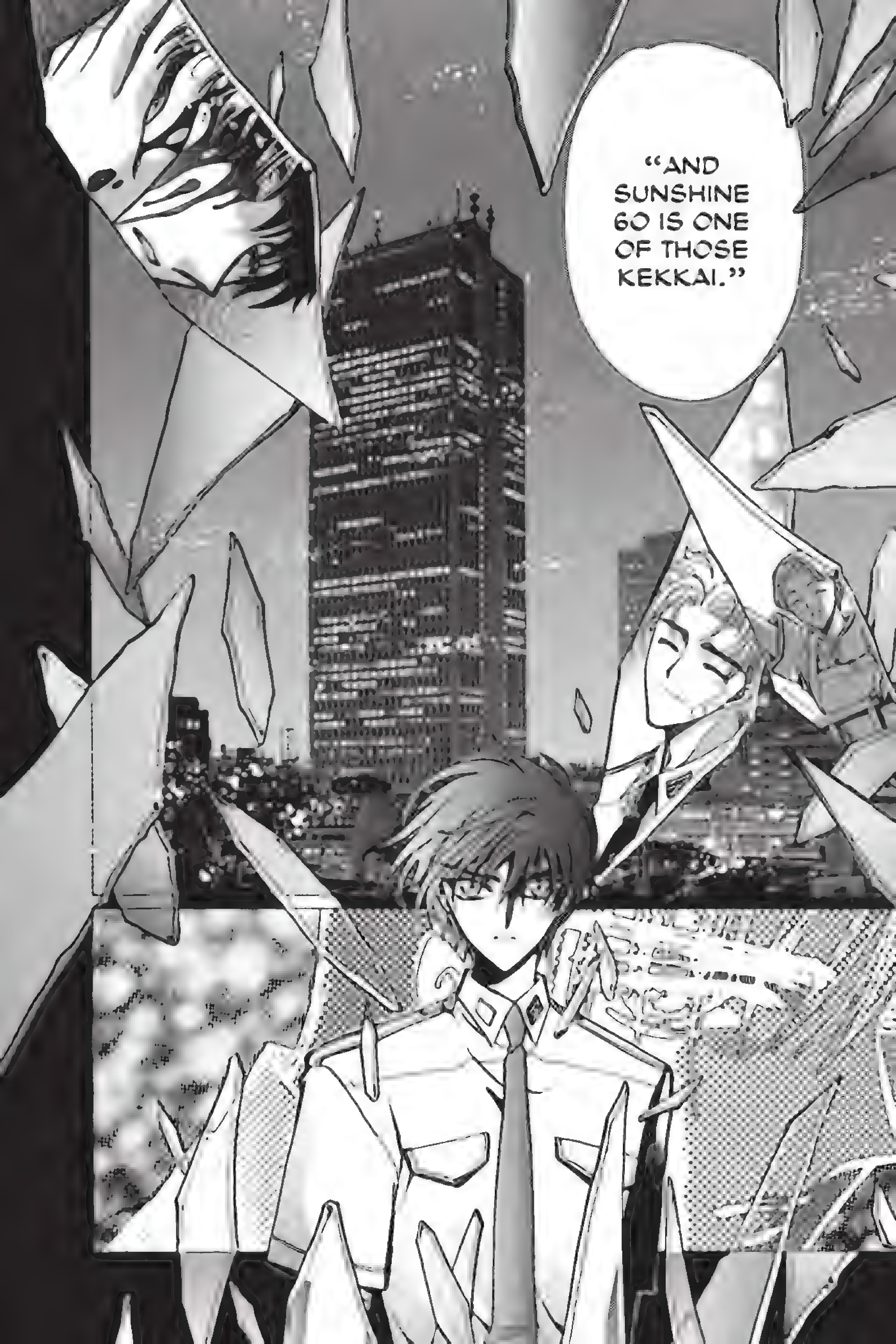

BRRNG

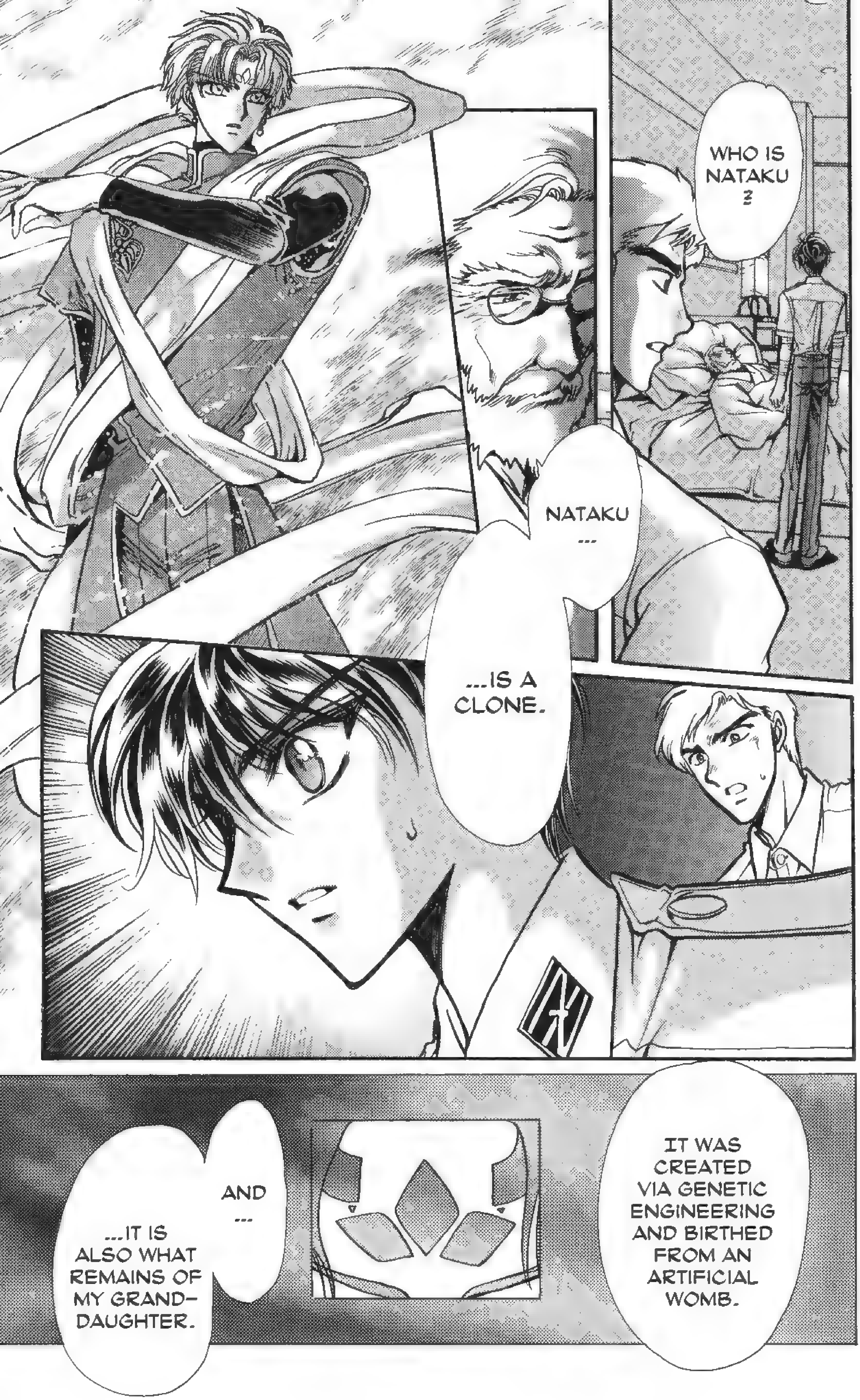

YOU ARE...
...THE KAMUI!

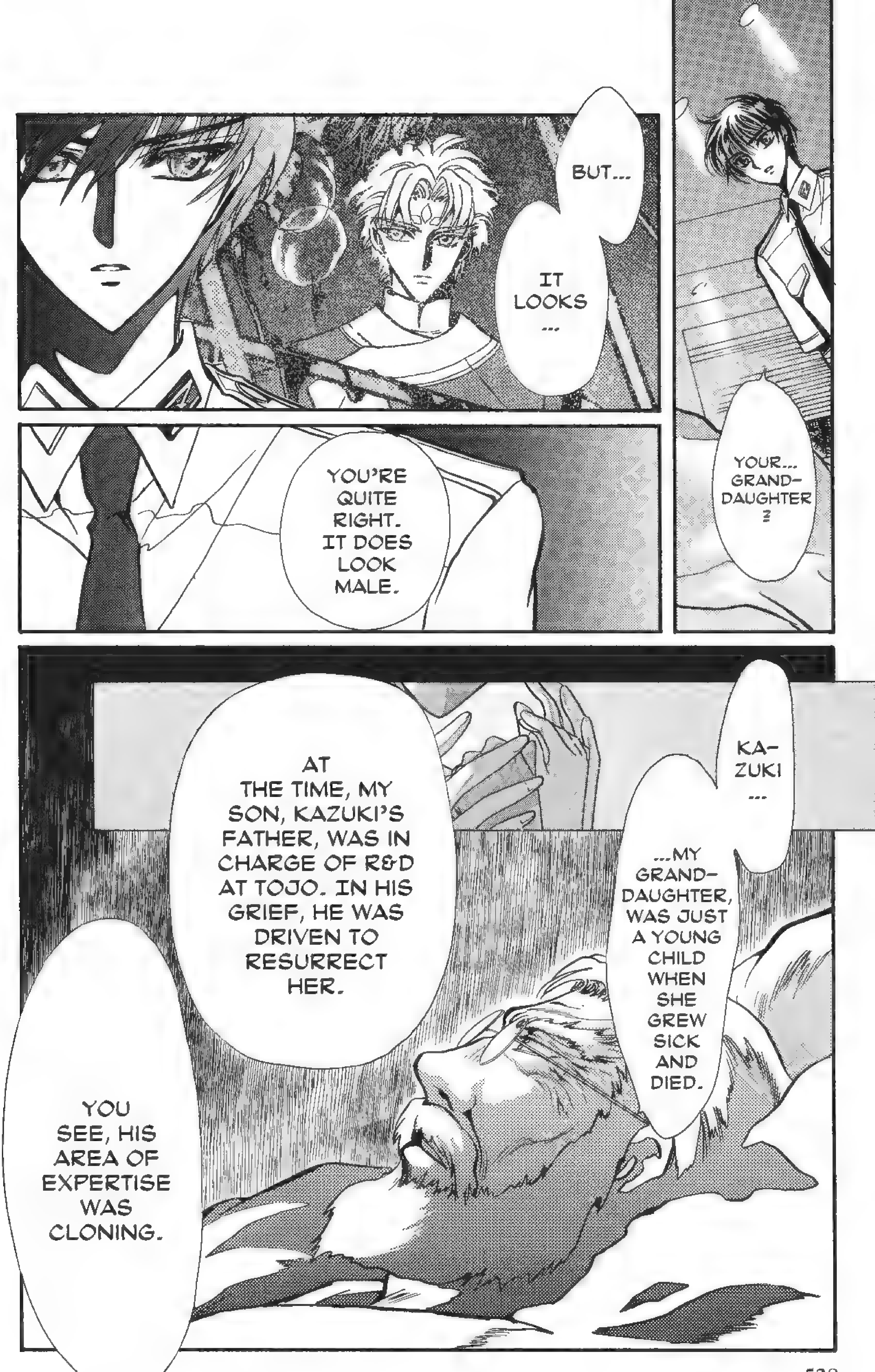

GIVE US SOME PRIVACY.
BUT, SIR!
FIRST, I MUST EXPRESS MY GRATITUDE FOR WHAT YOU DID.
I DIDN'T DO—
IF YOU HADN'T CARRIED ME OUT OF SUNSHINE 60...
...I WOULD HAVE CERTAINLY DIED THERE.
YOU HAVE MY THANKS.

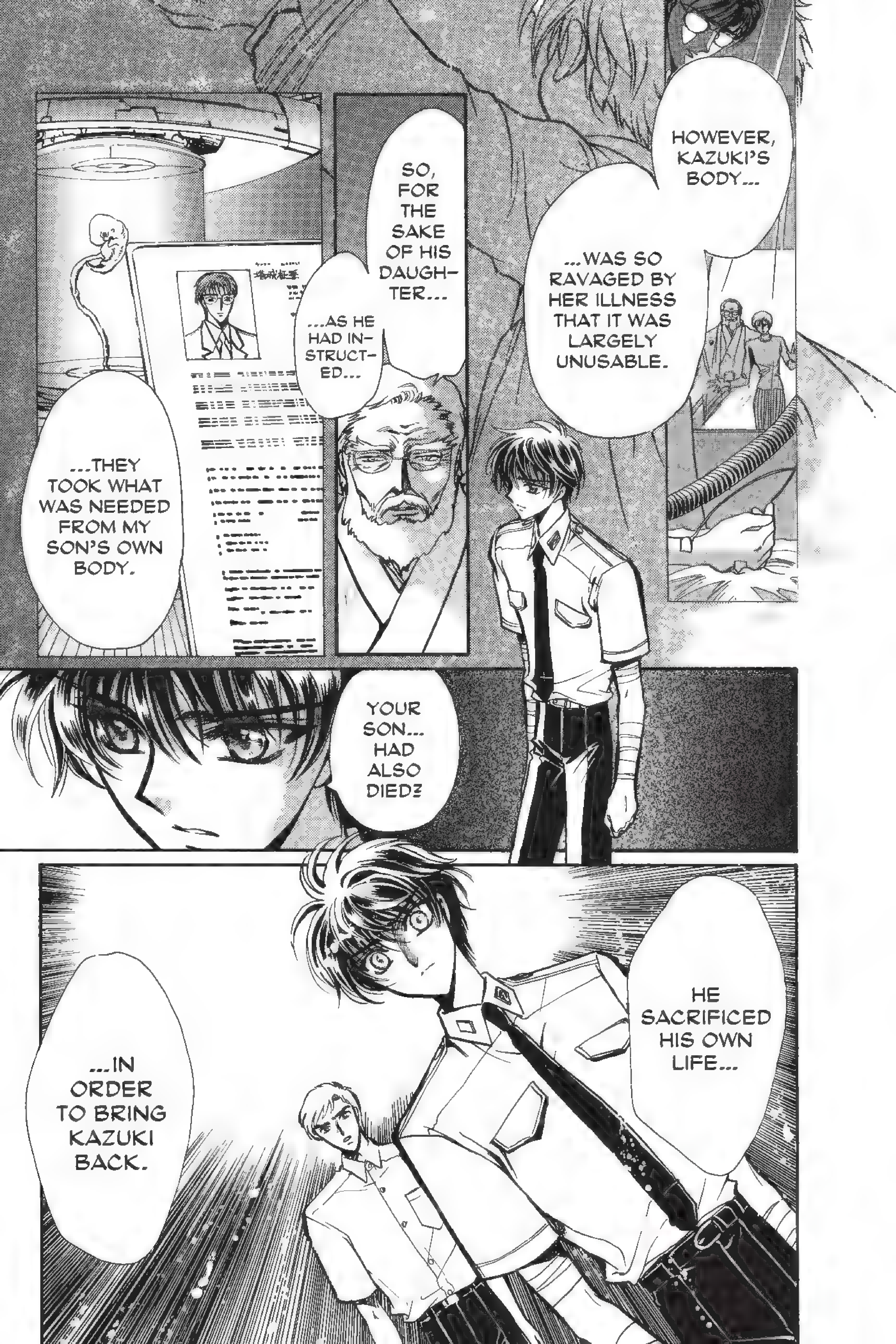

THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU.
WHY WAS FUMA...
...AT THE SUNSHINE COMPLEX?
"FUMA"?
THAT'S THE OTHER KAMUI'S REAL NAME.

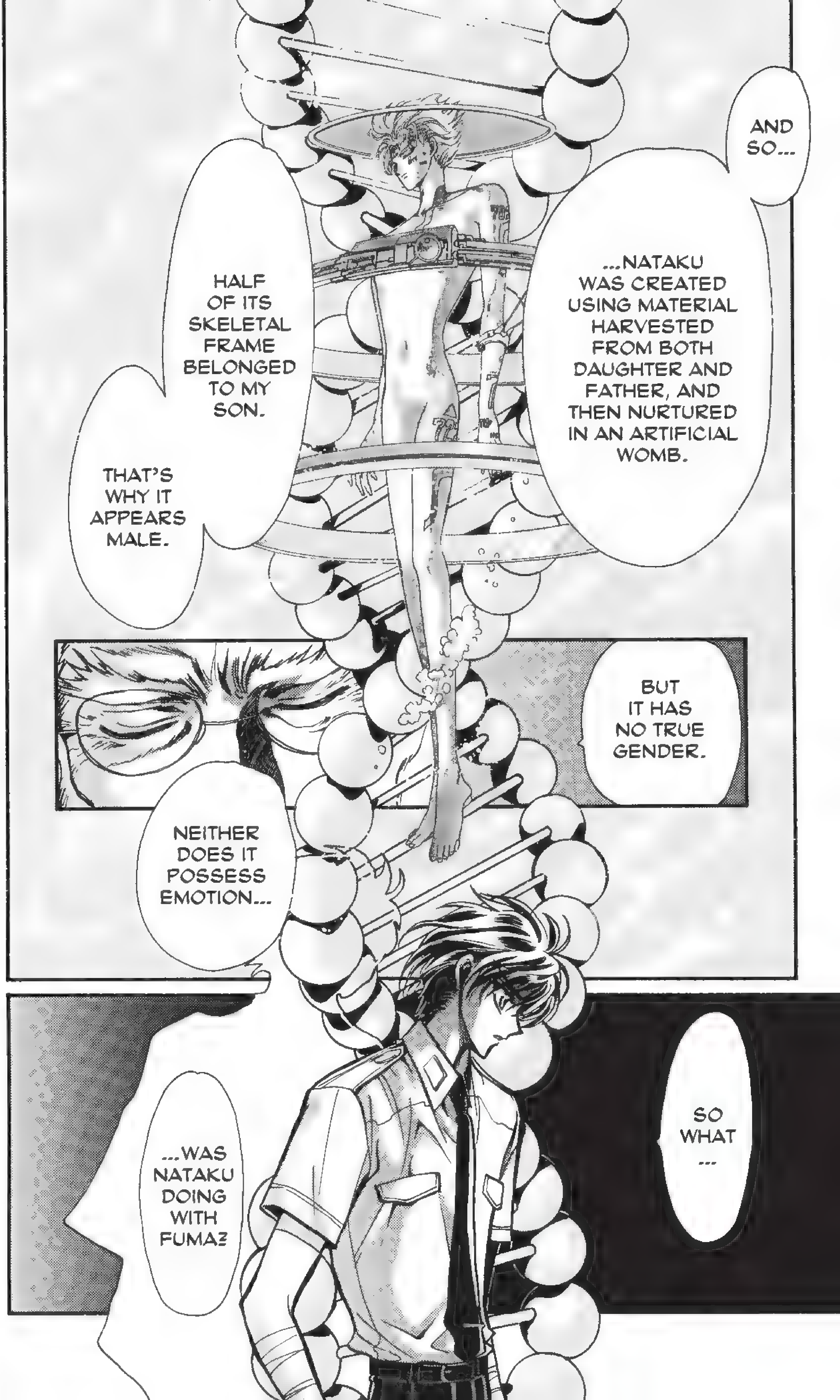

THE KAMUI SUDDENLY APPEARED IN THE BASEMENT OF THE COMPLEX ALONG WITH NATAKU.
I DON'T KNOW WHY.
BUT I CAN TELL YOU WHAT HE SAID.
"ALL THOSE WHO DEFILE THE EARTH MUST DIE."
"THEREFORE, ALL THE KEKKAI PROTECTING THEM MUST BE DESTROYED."
GRRP

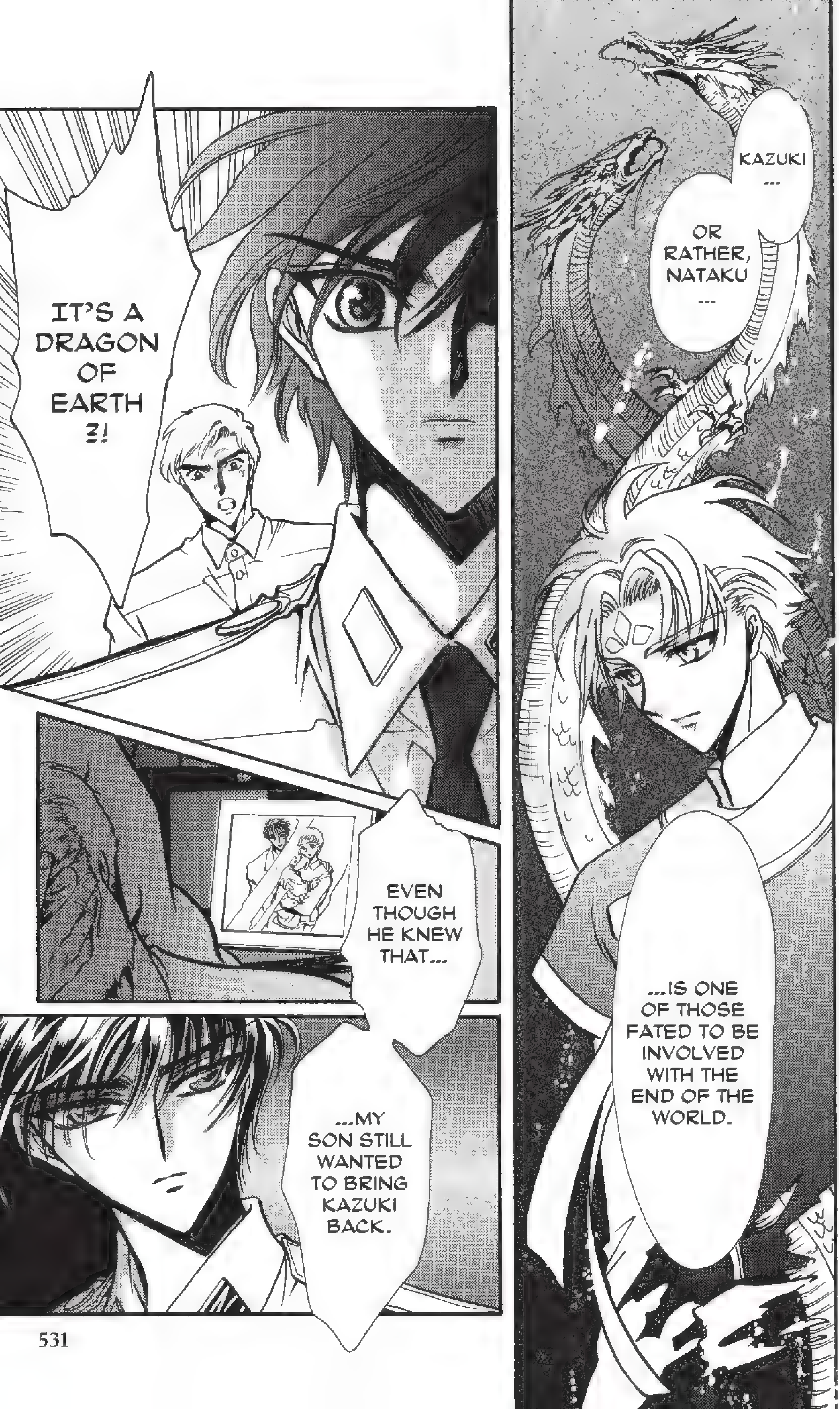

"AND SUNSHINE 60 IS ONE OF THOSE KEKKAI."

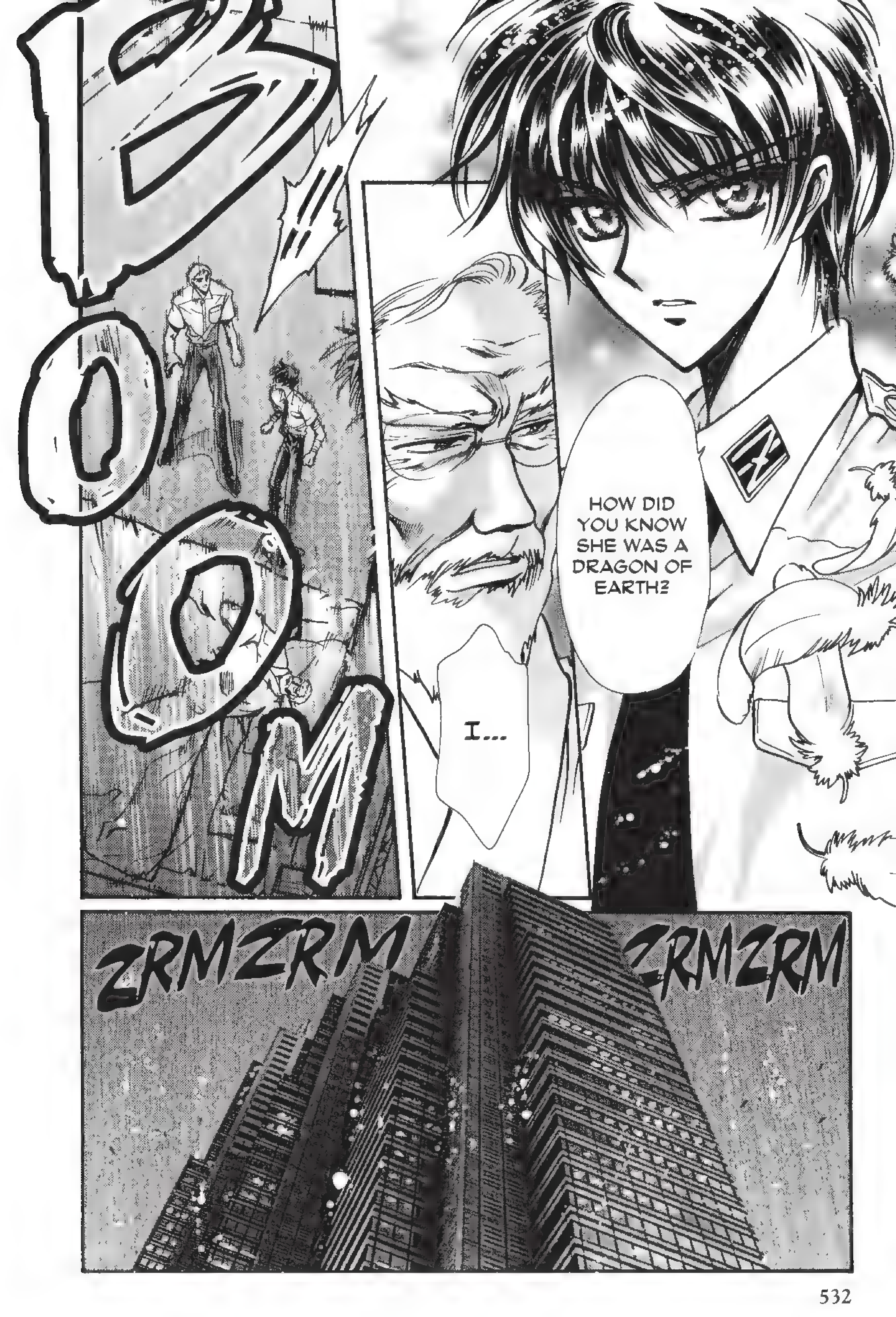

WHO IS NATAKU?
NATAKU...
...IS A CLONE.
IT WAS CREATED VIA GENETIC ENGINEERING AND BIRTHED FROM AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB.
AND...
...IT IS ALSO WHAT REMAINS OF MY GRANDDAUGHTER.

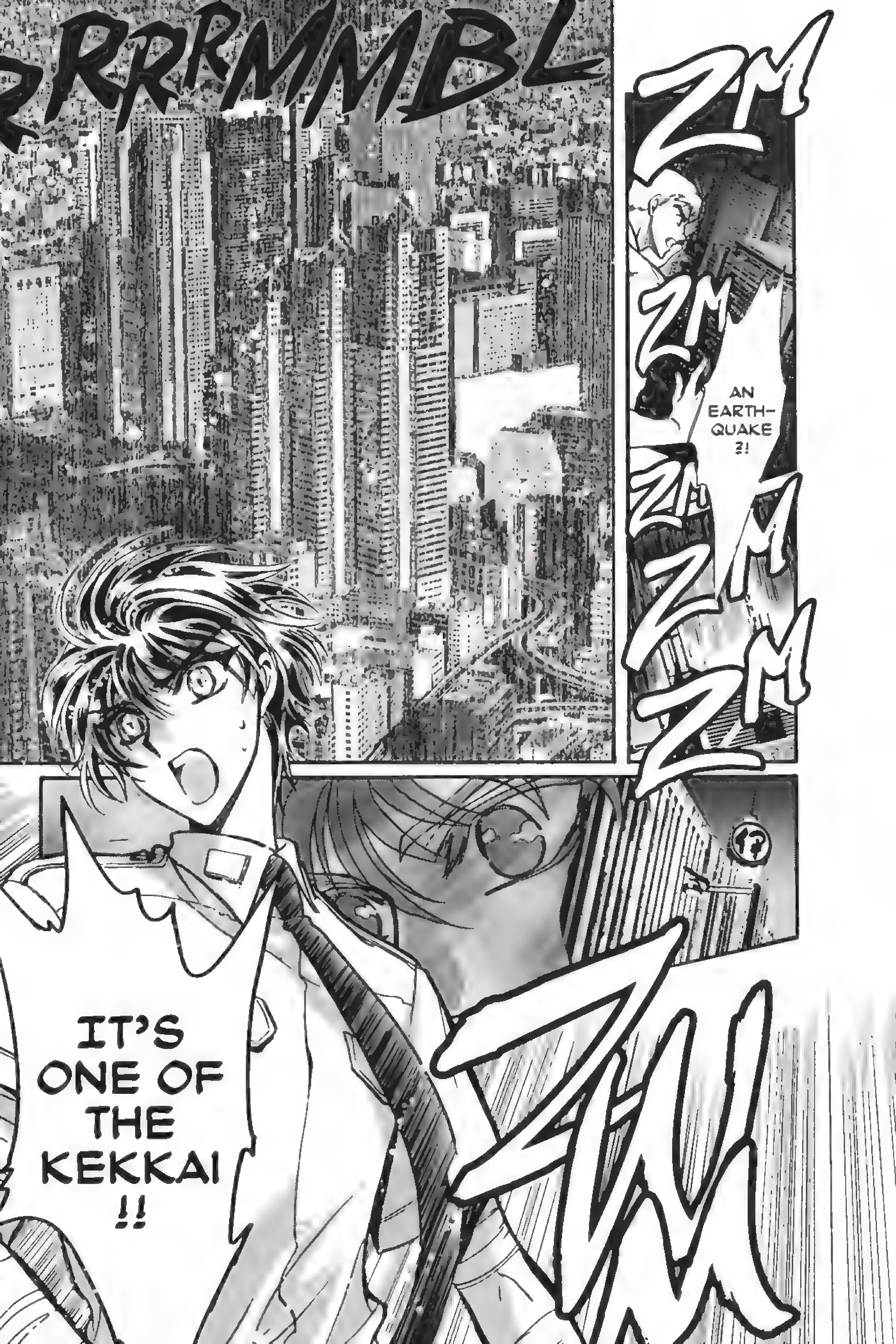

YOUR... GRANDDAUGHTER?
BUT...
IT LOOKS...
YOU'RE QUITE RIGHT. IT DOES LOOK MALE.
KAZUKI...
...MY GRANDDAUGHTER, WAS JUST A YOUNG CHILD WHEN SHE GREW SICK AND DIED.
AT THE TIME, MY SON, KAZUKI'S FATHER, WAS IN CHARGE OF R&D AT TOJO. IN HIS GRIEF, HE WAS DRIVEN TO RESURRECT HER.
YOU SEE, HIS AREA OF EXPERTISE WAS CLONING.

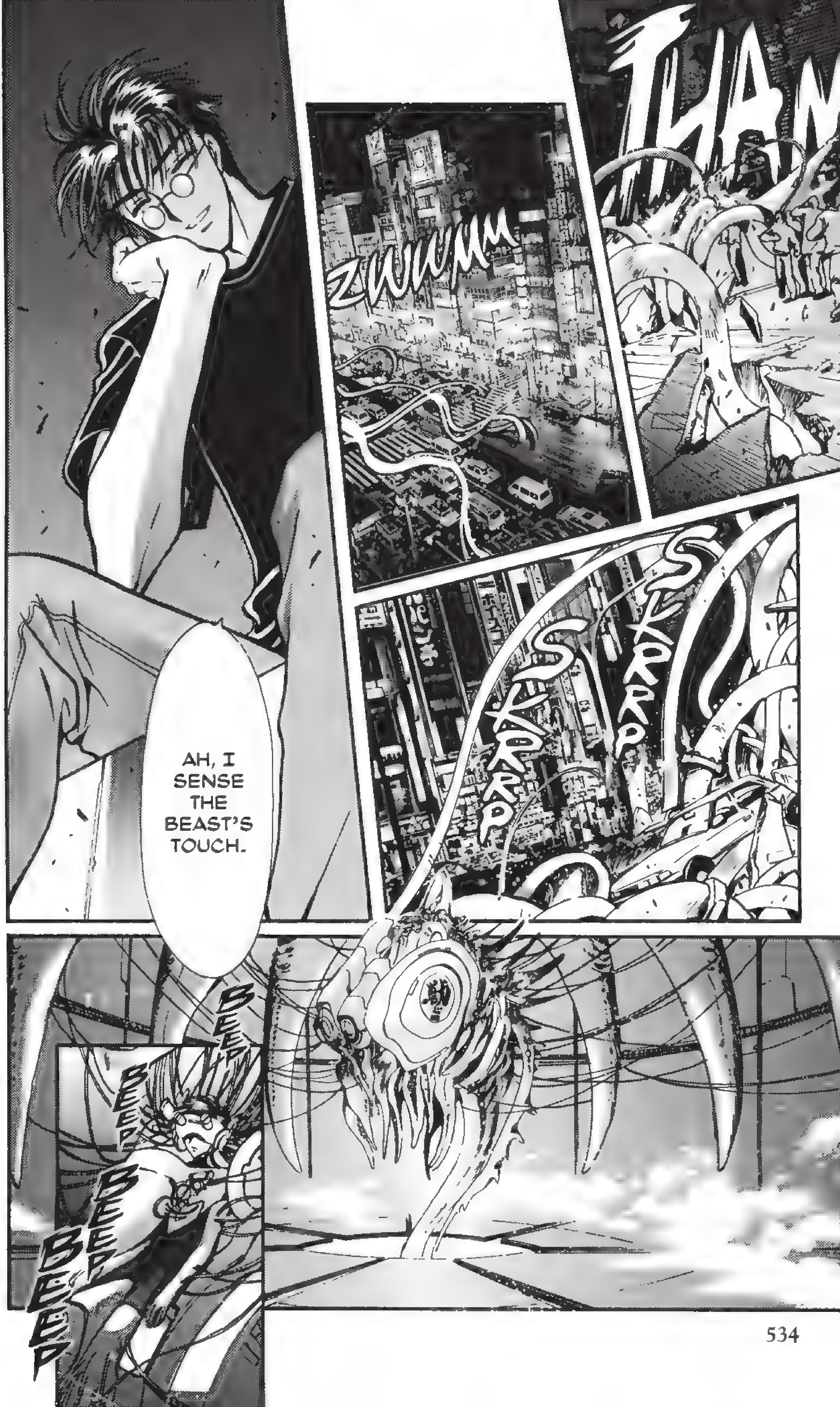

HOWEVER, KAZUKI'S BODY...
...WAS SO RAVAGED BY HER ILLNESS THAT IT WAS LARGELY UNUSABLE.
SO, FOR THE SAKE OF HIS DAUGHTER...
...AS HE HAD INSTRUCTED...
...THEY TOOK WHAT WAS NEEDED FROM MY SON'S OWN BODY.
YOUR SON... HAD ALSO DIED?
HE SACRIFICED HIS OWN LIFE...
...IN ORDER TO BRING KAZUKI BACK.

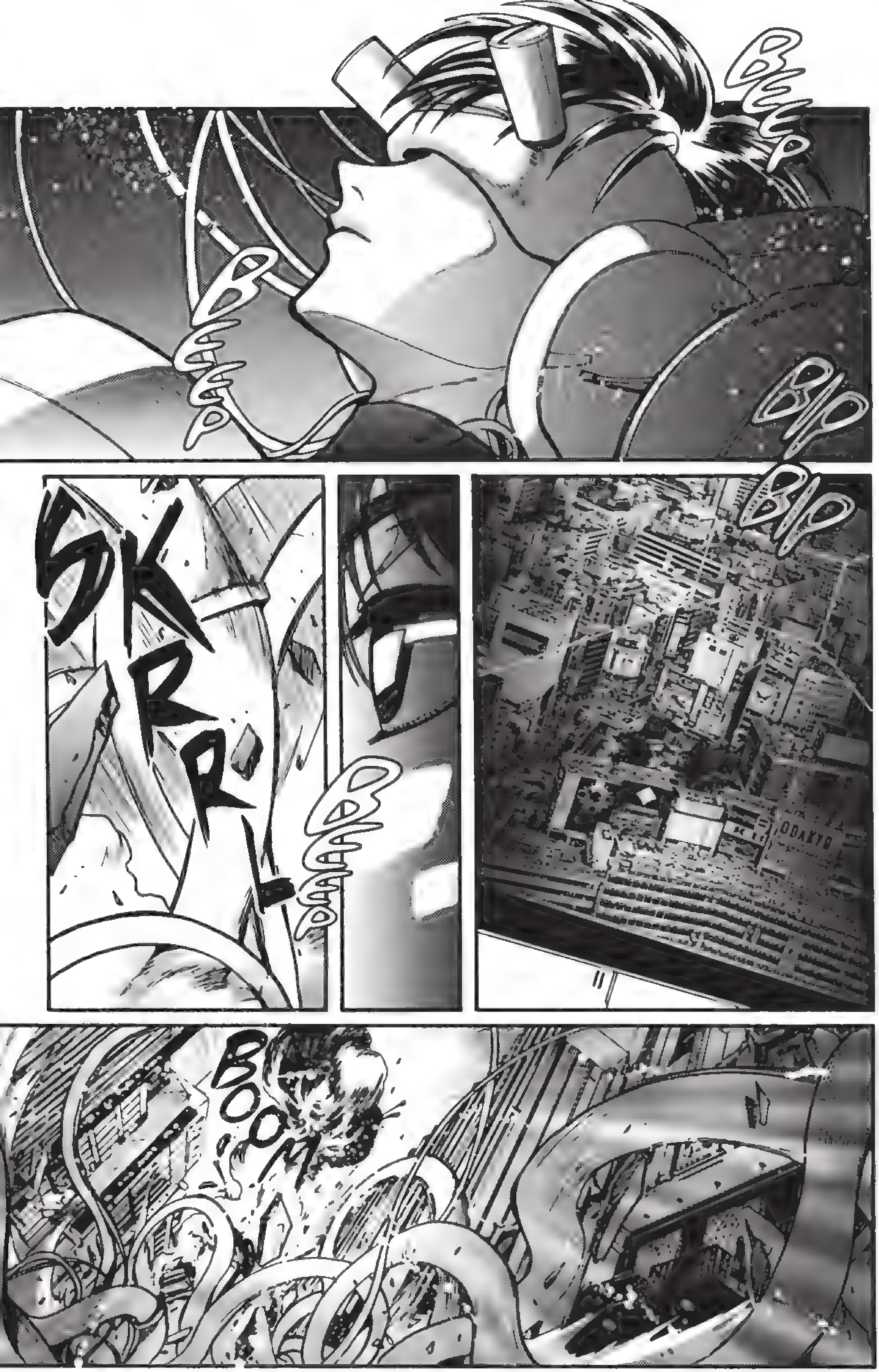

AND SO...
...NATAKU WAS CREATED USING MATERIAL HARVESTED FROM BOTH DAUGHTER AND FATHER, AND THEN NURTURED IN AN ARTIFICIAL WOMB.
HALF OF ITS SKELETAL FRAME BELONGED TO MY SON.
THAT'S WHY IT APPEARS MALE.
BUT IT HAS NO TRUE GENDER.
NEITHER DOES IT POSSESS EMOTION...
SO WHAT ...
...WAS NATAKU DOING WITH FUMA?

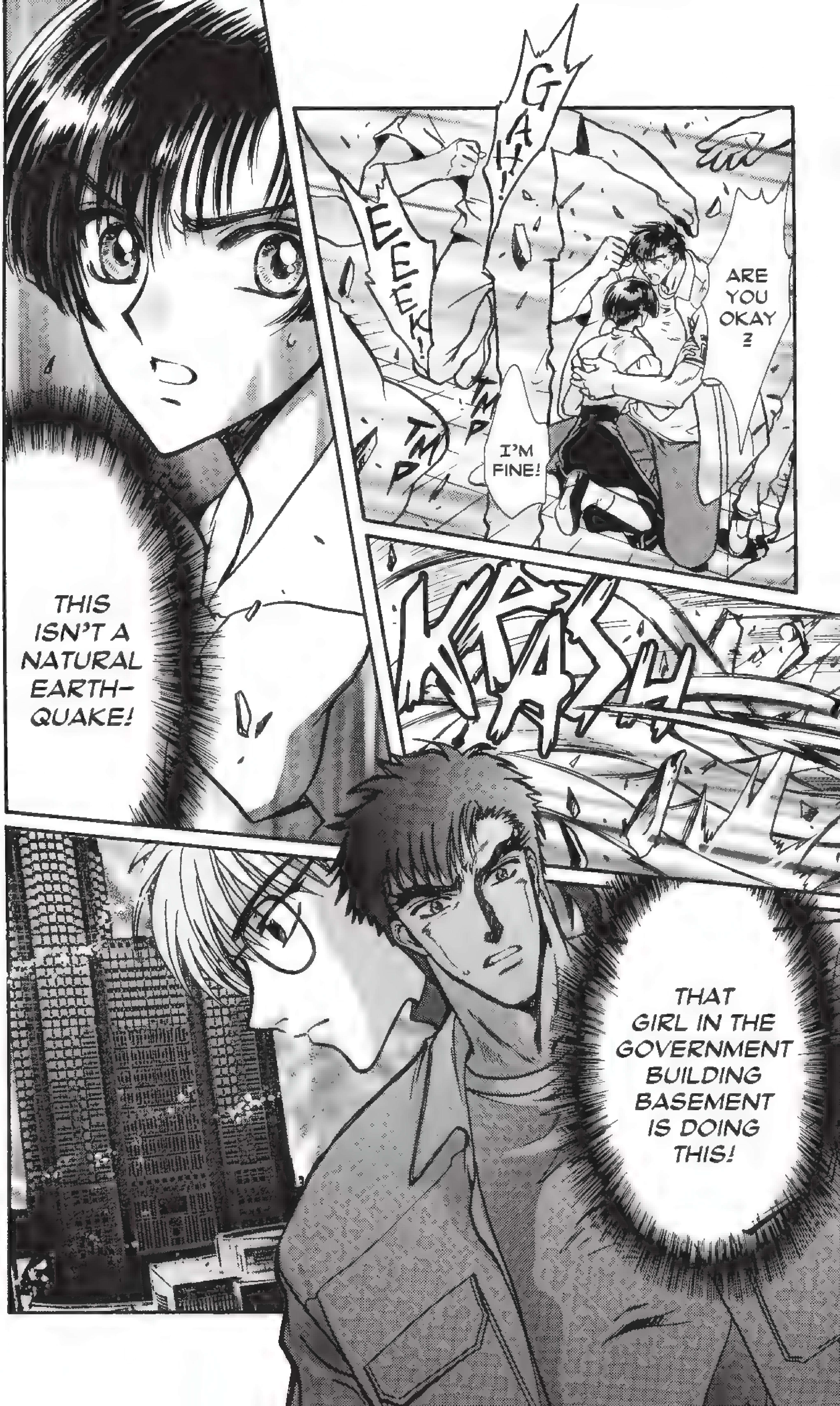

KAZUKI ...
OR RATHER, NATAKU ...
...IS ONE OF THOSE FATED TO BE INVOLVED WITH THE END OF THE WORLD.
IT'S A DRAGON OF EARTH?!
EVEN THOUGH HE KNEW THAT...
...MY SON STILL WANTED TO BRING KAZUKI BACK.

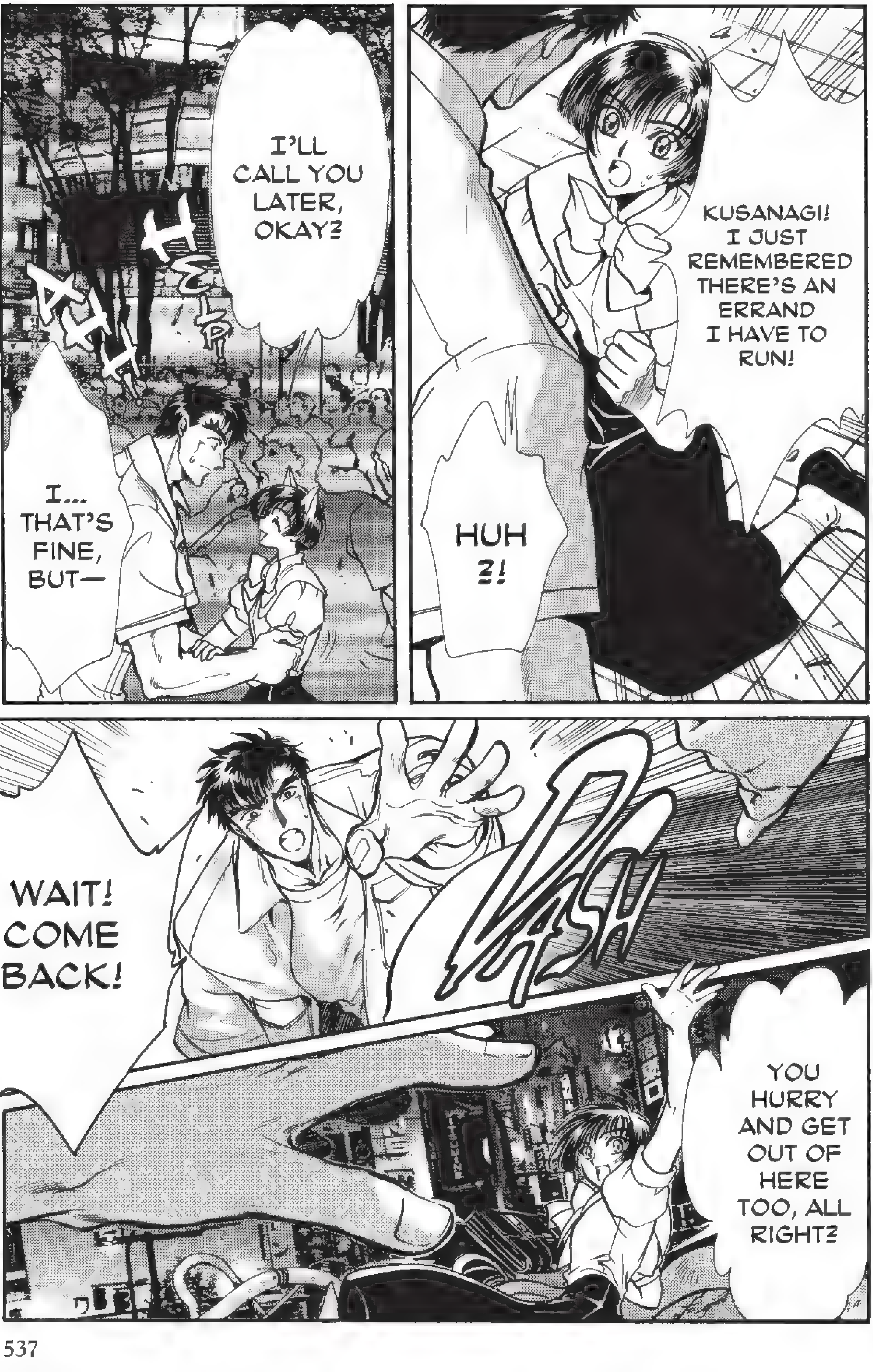

HOW DID YOU KNOW SHE WAS A DRAGON OF EARTH?
I...
BOOM
ZRMZRM ZRMZRM

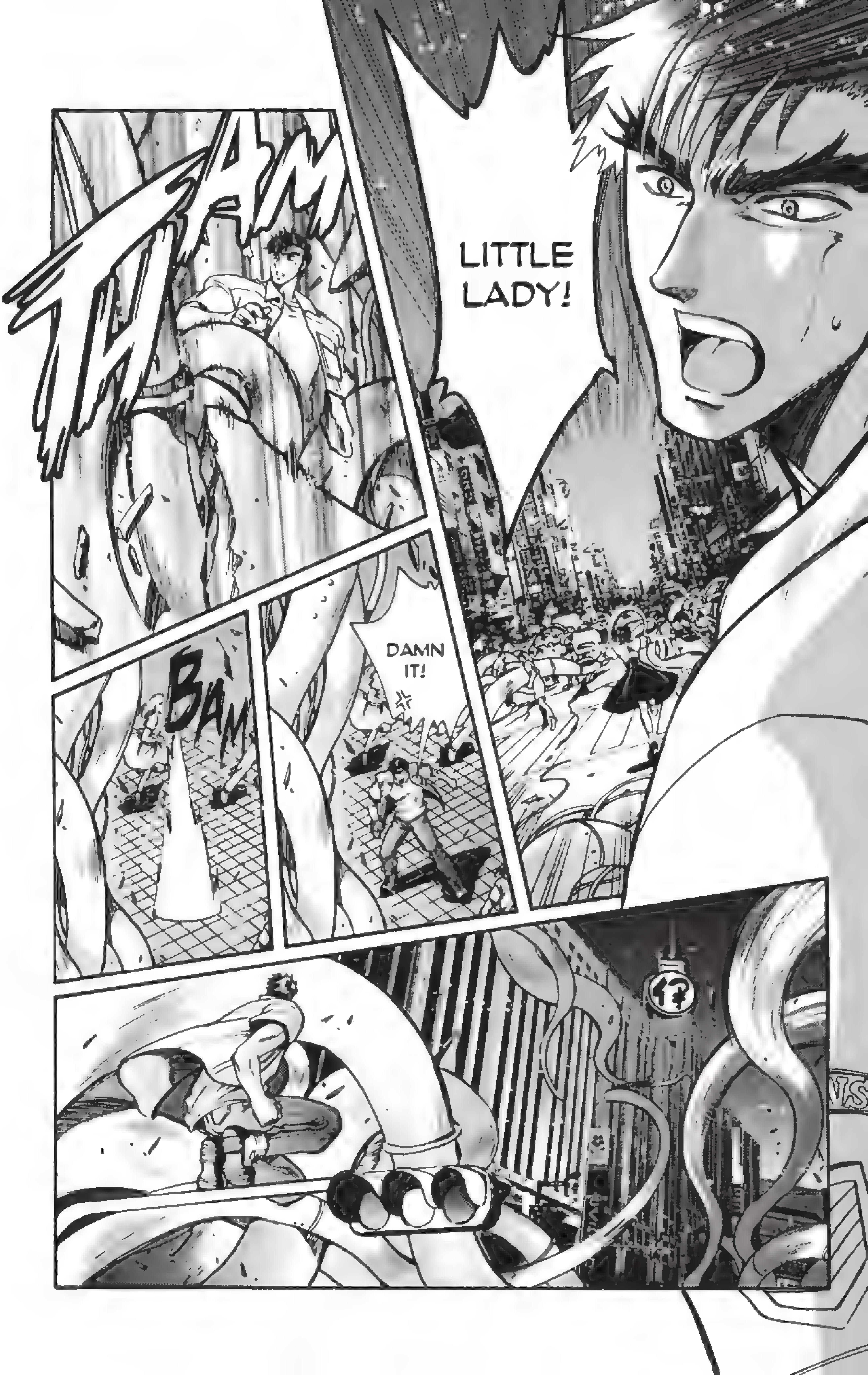

ZM
ZM
AN EARTH-QUAKE ?!
ZM
ZM
ZM
RRRRMMBL
!?
IT'S ONE OF THE KEKKAI !!
ZM

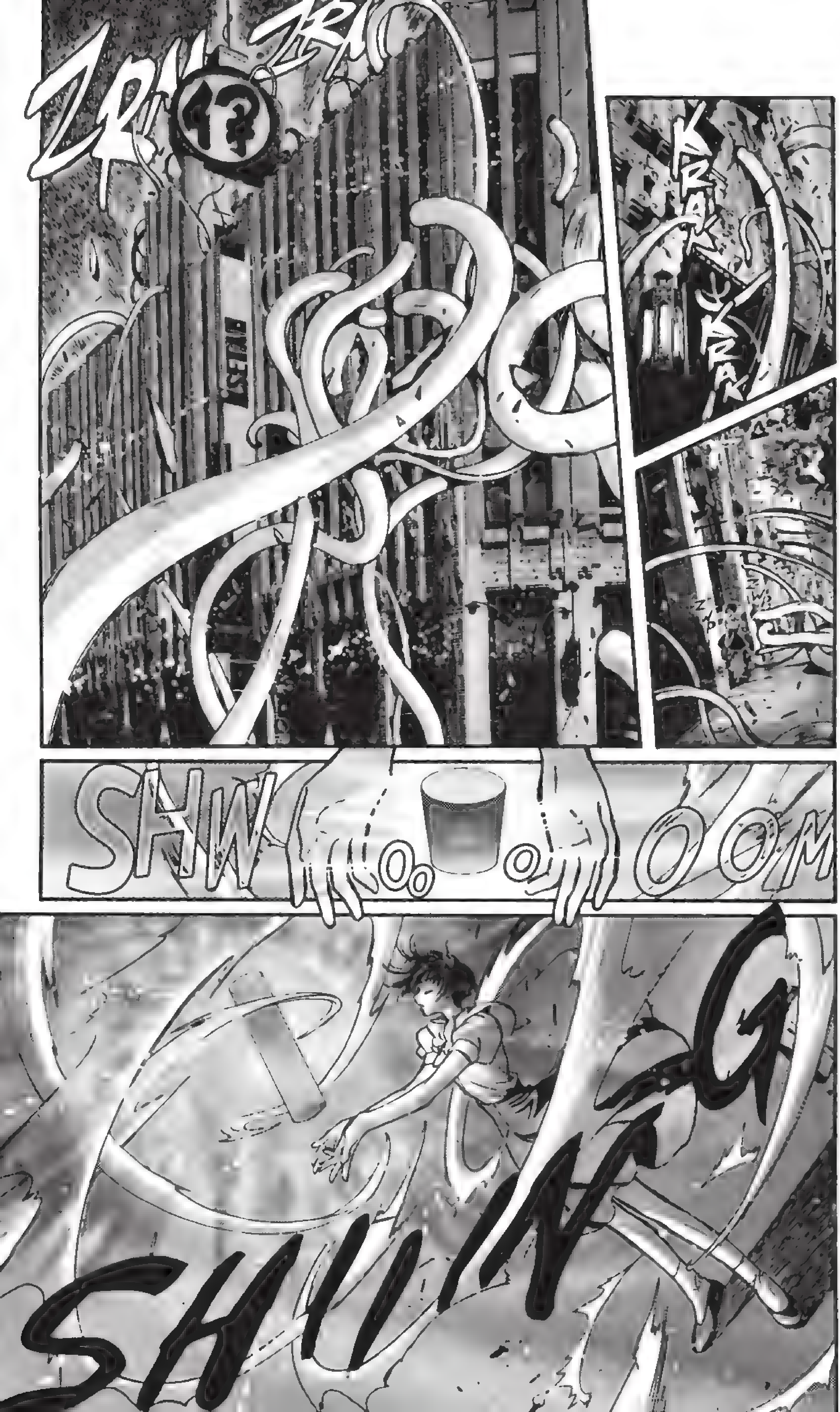

THAM
ZWUMM
SKRRP
SKRRP
AH, I SENSE THE BEAST'S TOUCH.
BEEP
BEEEP
BEEEEP

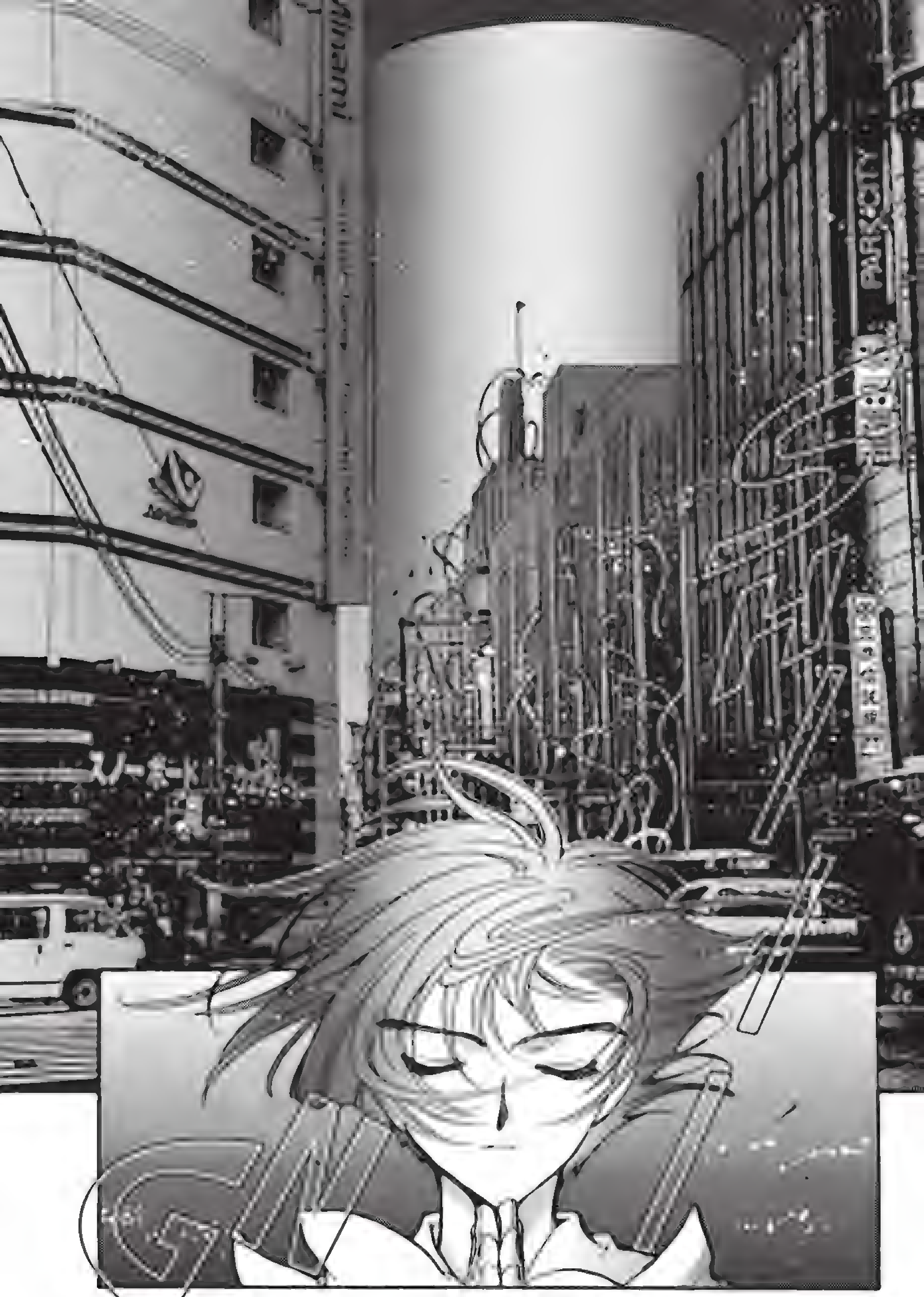

BEEEP
BIP
BEEEP
BIP
BEEEEEP
SKRRL
ODAKYU
BOOM


GAH!
EEEEK!
ARE YOU OKAY?
I'M FINE!
TMP TMP
KRASH
THIS ISN'T A NATURAL EARTHQUAKE!
THAT GIRL IN THE GOVERNMENT BUILDING BASEMENT IS DOING THIS!


KUSANAGI! I JUST REMEMBERED THERE'S AN ERRAND I HAVE TO RUN!
HUH?!
I'LL CALL YOU LATER, OKAY?
AHH HEP
I... THAT'S FINE, BUT—
WAIT! COME BACK!
DASH
YOU HURRY AND GET OUT OF HERE TOO, ALL RIGHT?


LITTLE LADY!
THAM
DAMN IT!
BAM


ZRA
ZRA
47
KRAK
KRAK
SHWOOOOOM
SHING

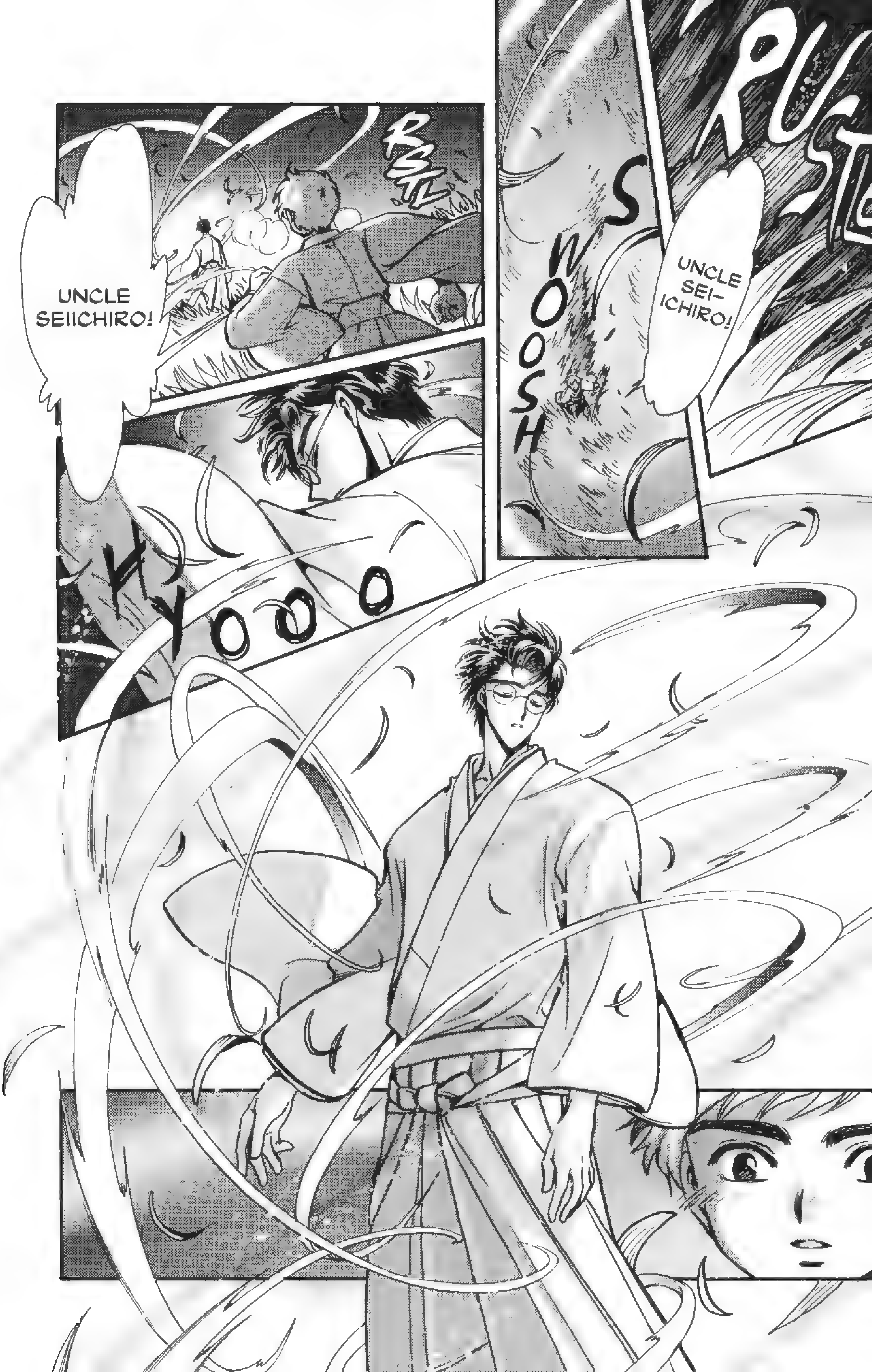


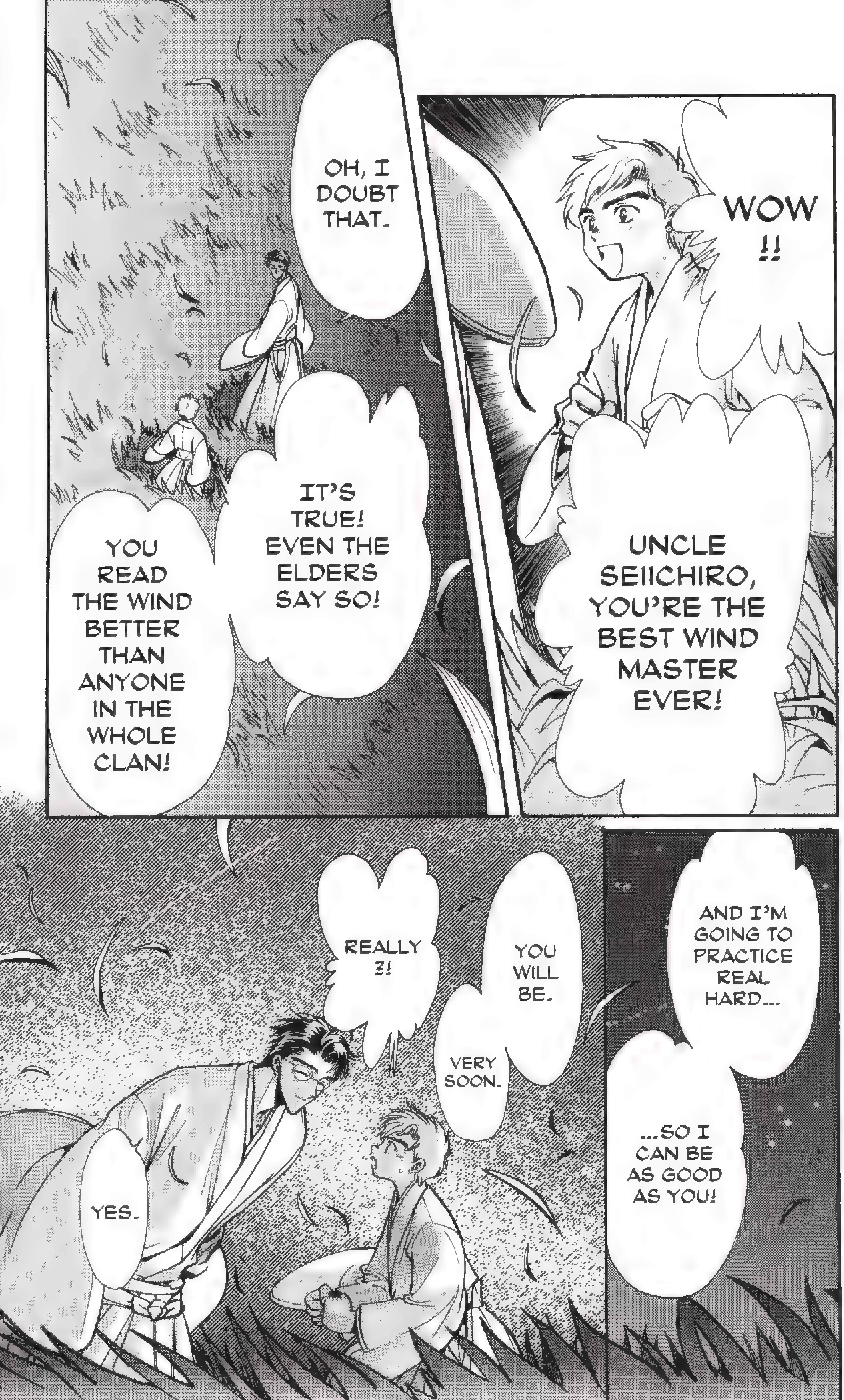
TO BE CONTINUED...

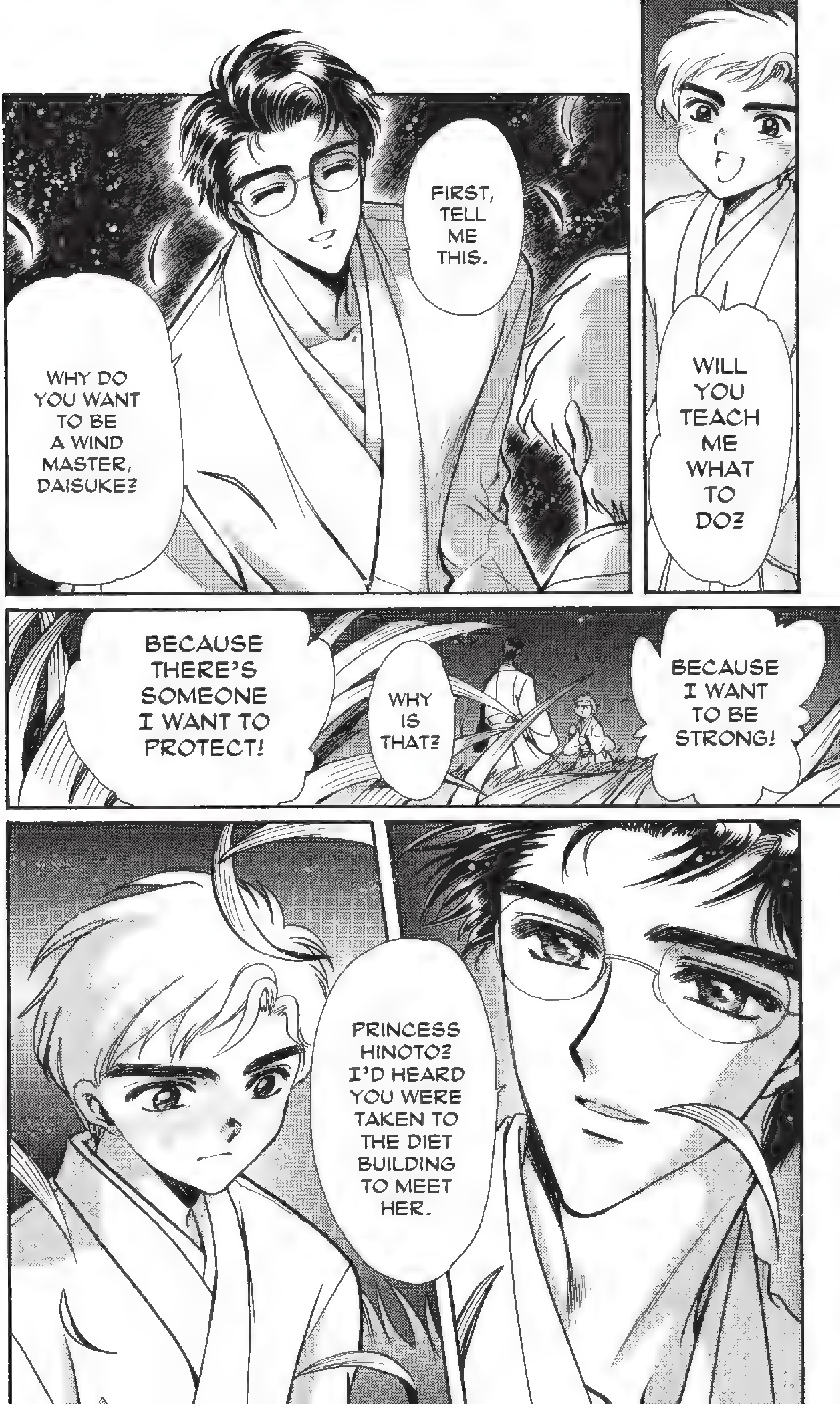
the seven seals

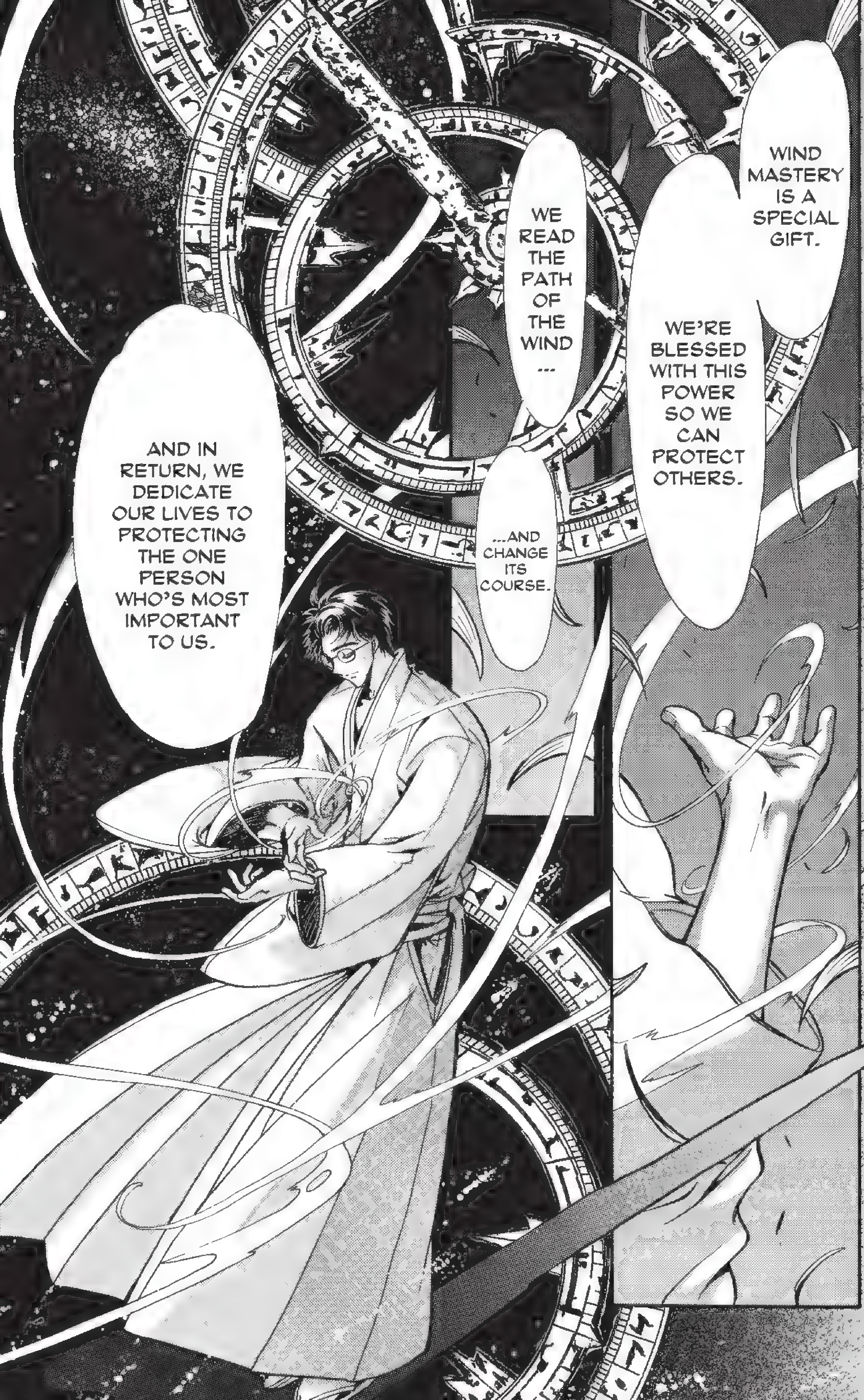
X

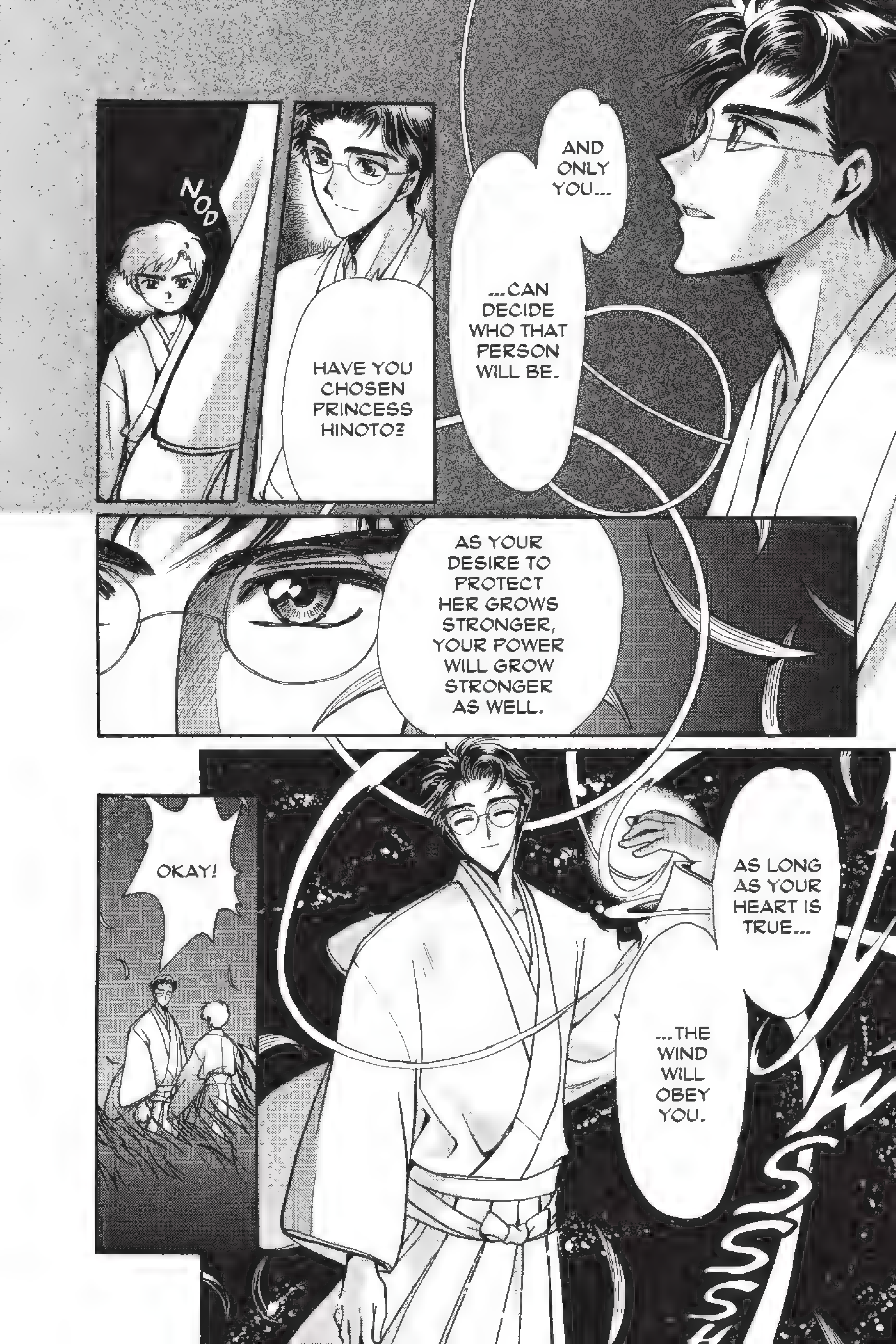
SEIICHIRO AOKI

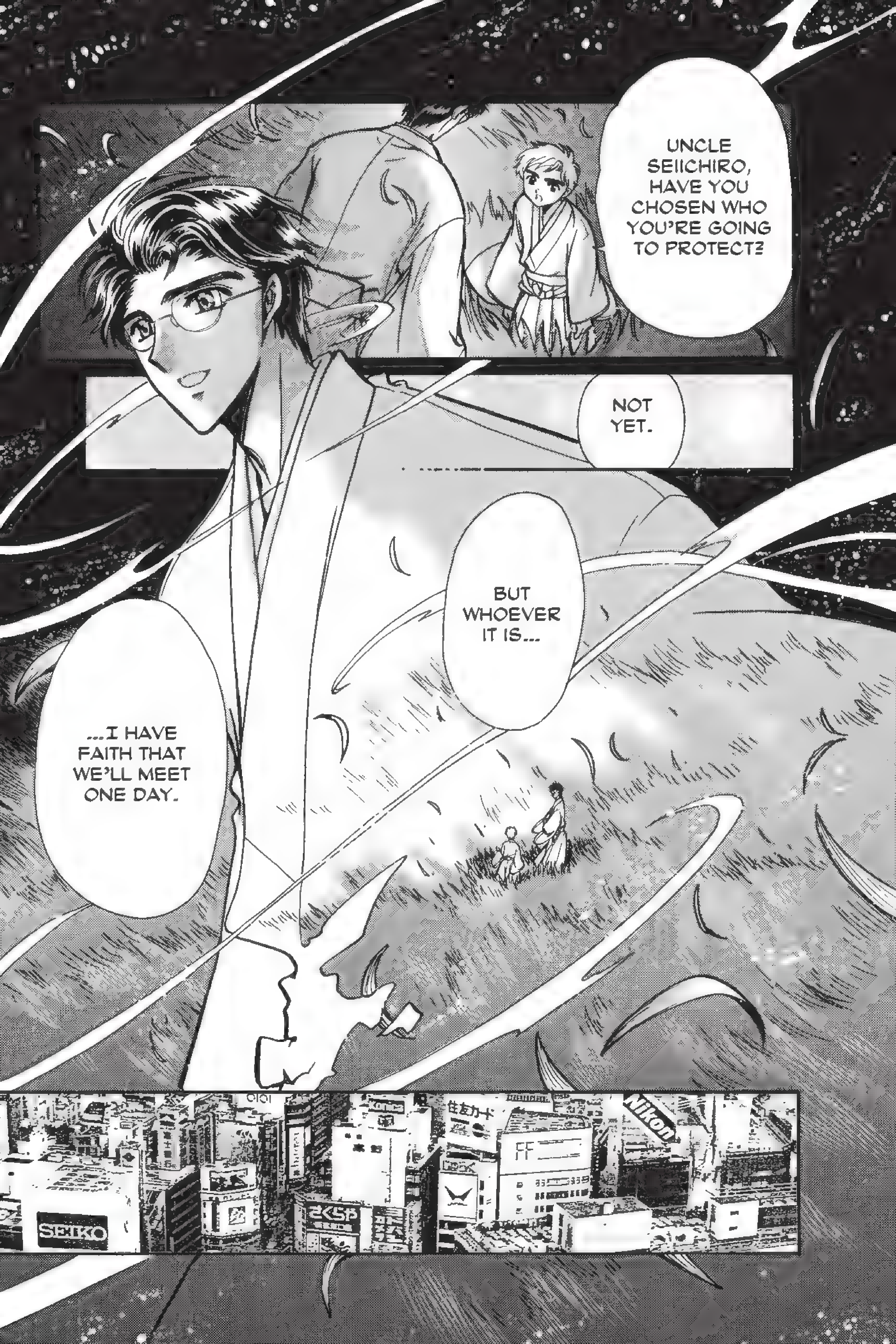

RUS-TL
UNCLE SEI-ICHIRO!
SWOOSH
UNCLE SEIICHIRO!
RSTL
HYOOOO

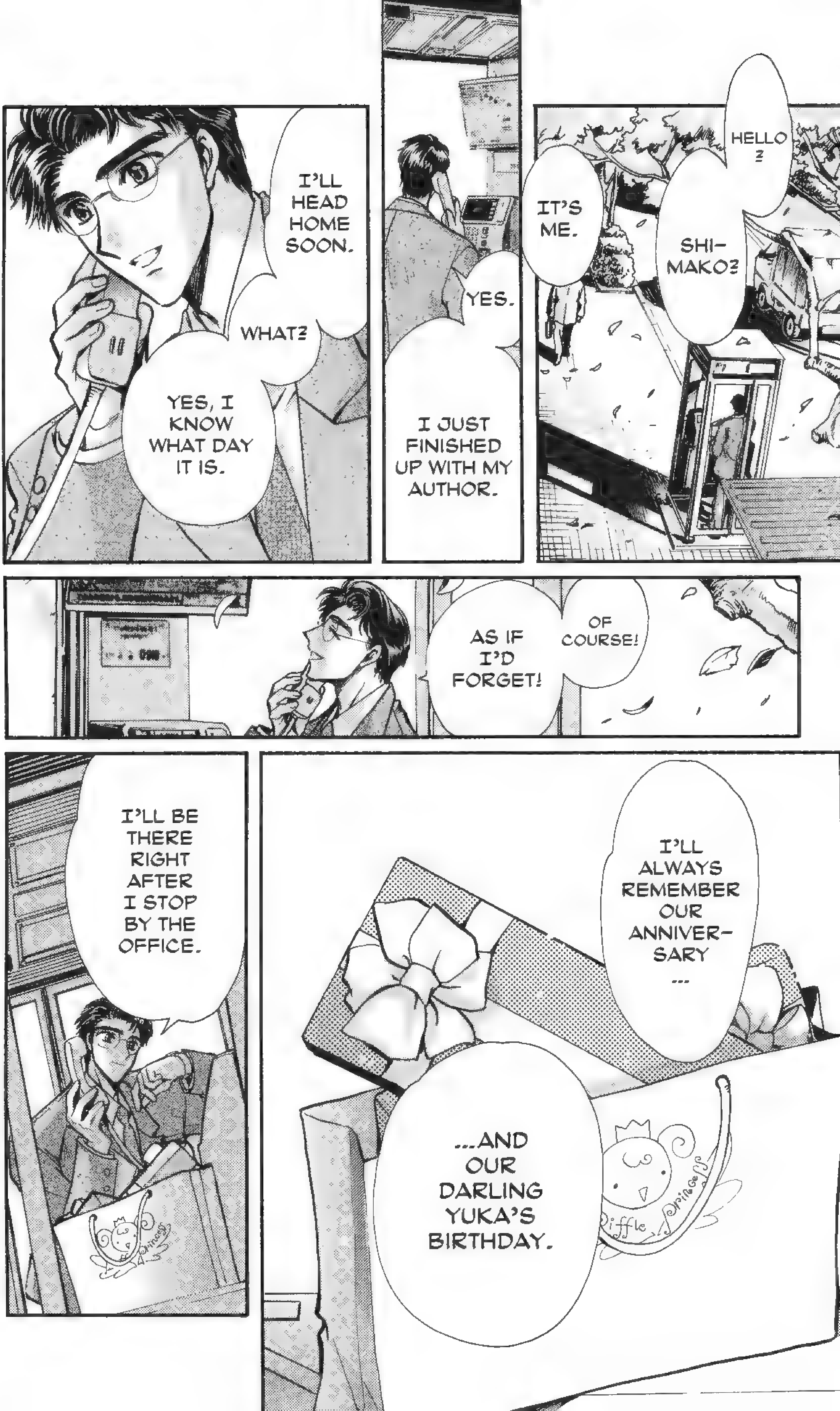

WOW !!
UNCLE SEIICHIRO, YOU'RE THE BEST WIND MASTER EVER!
OH, I DOUBT THAT.
IT'S TRUE! EVEN THE ELDERS SAY SO!
YOU READ THE WIND BETTER THAN ANYONE IN THE WHOLE CLAN!
AND I'M GOING TO PRACTICE REAL HARD...
...SO I CAN BE AS GOOD AS YOU!
YOU WILL BE.
REALLY ?!
VERY SOON.
YES.

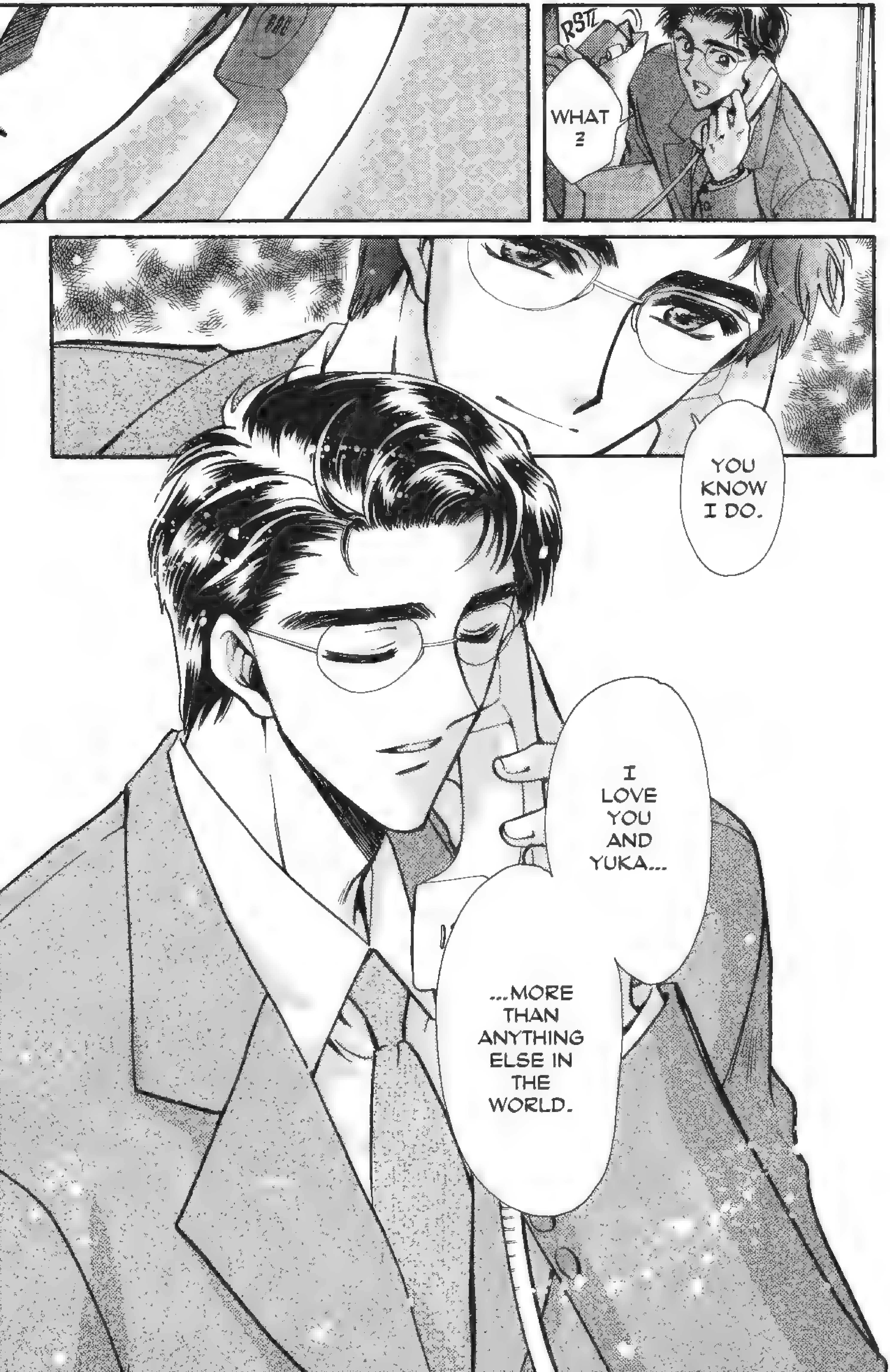

WILL YOU TEACH ME WHAT TO DO?
FIRST, TELL ME THIS.
WHY DO YOU WANT TO BE A WIND MASTER, DAISUKE?
BECAUSE I WANT TO BE STRONG!
WHY IS THAT?
BECAUSE THERE'S SOMEONE I WANT TO PROTECT!
PRINCESS HINOTO? I'D HEARD YOU WERE TAKEN TO THE DIET BUILDING TO MEET HER.

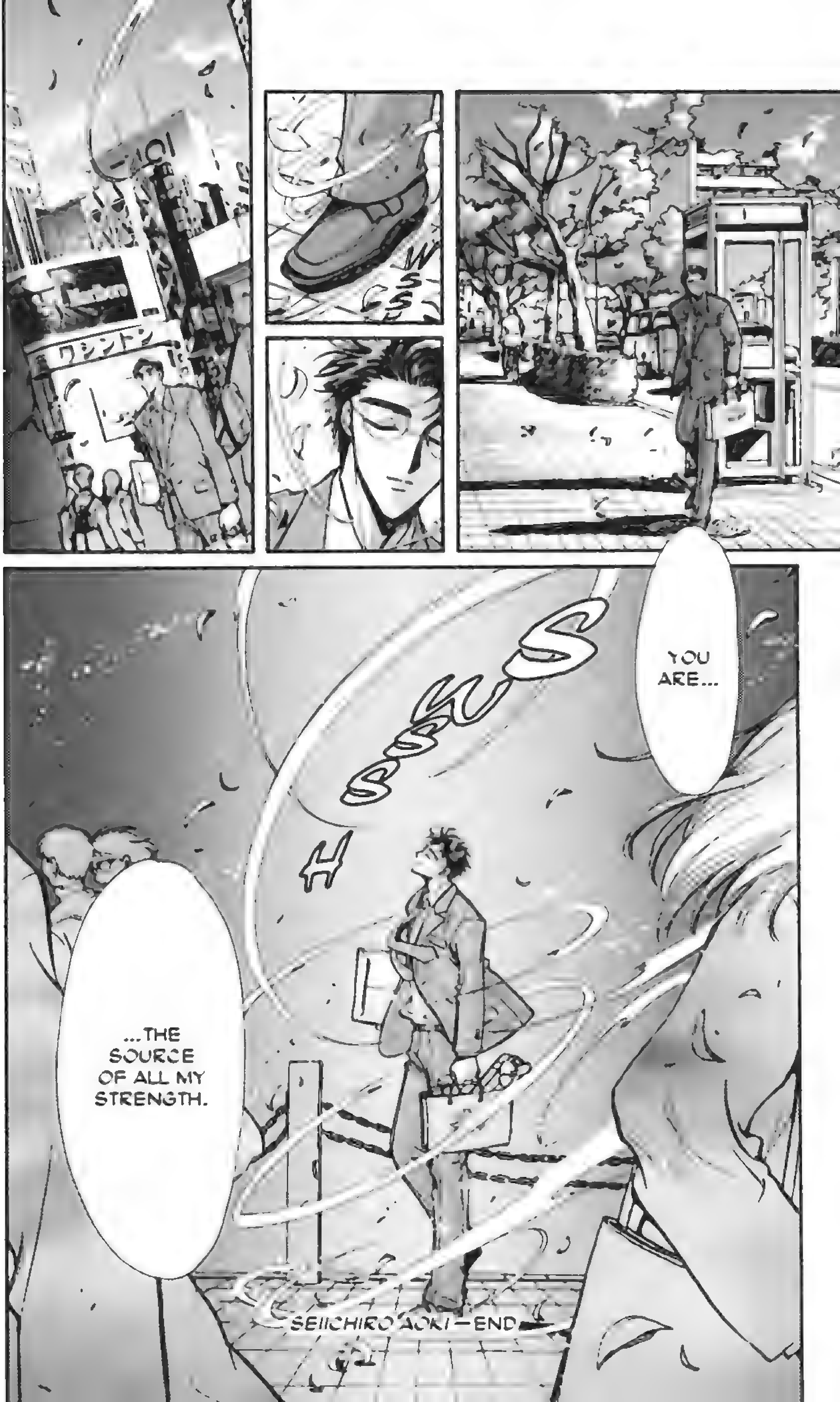

WIND MASTERY IS A SPECIAL GIFT.
WE'RE BLESSED WITH THIS POWER SO WE CAN PROTECT OTHERS.
WE READ THE PATH OF THE WIND ...
...AND CHANGE ITS COURSE.
AND IN RETURN, WE DEDICATE OUR LIVES TO PROTECTING THE ONE PERSON WHO'S MOST IMPORTANT TO US.


AND ONLY YOU...
...CAN DECIDE WHO THAT PERSON WILL BE.
HAVE YOU CHOSEN PRINCESS HINOTO?
NOD
AS YOUR DESIRE TO PROTECT HER GROWS STRONGER, YOUR POWER WILL GROW STRONGER AS WELL.
AS LONG AS YOUR HEART IS TRUE...
...THE WIND WILL OBEY YOU.
OKAY!


UNCLE SEIICHIRO, HAVE YOU CHOSEN WHO YOU'RE GOING TO PROTECT?
NOT YET.
BUT WHOEVER IT IS...
...I HAVE FAITH THAT WE'LL MEET ONE DAY.
住友カード
Nikon
SEIKO


HELLO?
SHIMAKO?
IT'S ME.
YES.
I JUST FINISHED UP WITH MY AUTHOR.
I'LL HEAD HOME SOON.
WHAT?
YES, I KNOW WHAT DAY IT IS.
OF COURSE!
AS IF I'D FORGET!
I'LL ALWAYS REMEMBER OUR ANNIVERSARY...
...AND OUR DARLING YUKA'S BIRTHDAY.
Piffle Princess
I'LL BE THERE RIGHT AFTER I STOP BY THE OFFICE.


RSTL
WHAT ?
YOU KNOW I DO.
I LOVE YOU AND YUKA...
...MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE IN THE WORLD.


WSSS
ワシントン
YOU ARE...
HSSSS
...THE SOURCE OF ALL MY STRENGTH.
SEIICHIRO AOKI—END

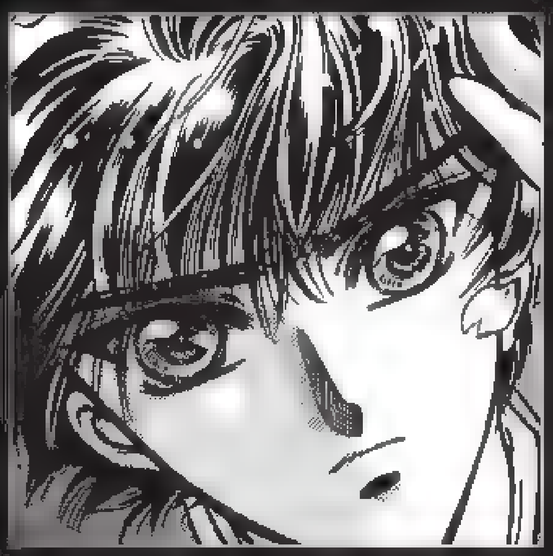
the seven angels

X

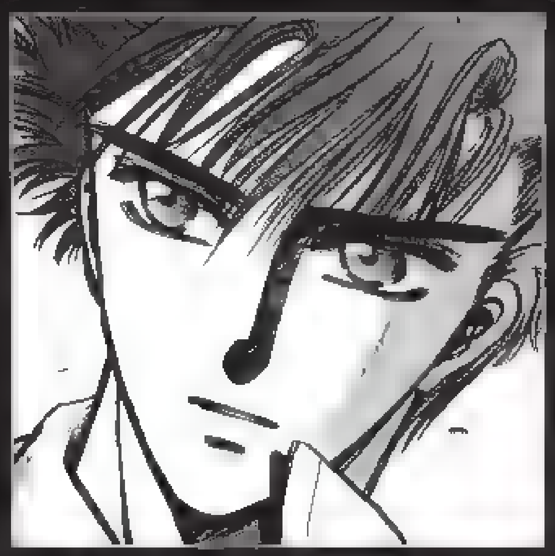
END VOLUME 4

X

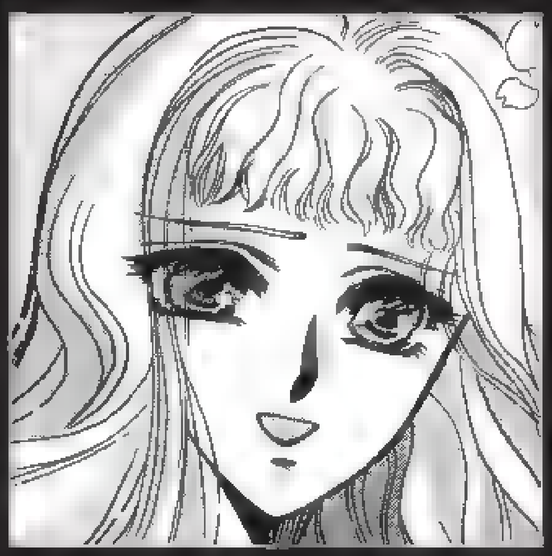
CAST OF CHARACTERS



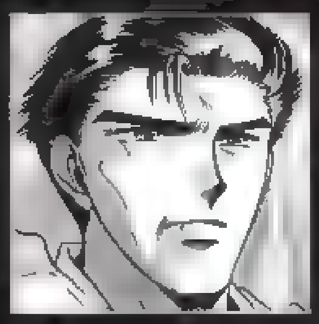
KAMUI SHIRO
A young man possessing tremendous arcane powers, he is at the center of a prophecy concerning the end of the world.



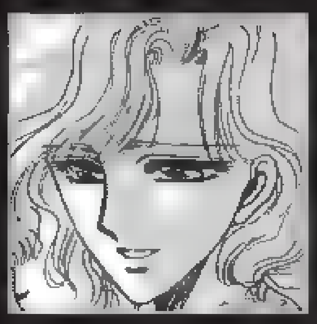
FUMA MONOU
Kamui's childhood friend and Kotori's brother. He too is involved in the prophecy, ordained by fate to be Kamui's "twin star."



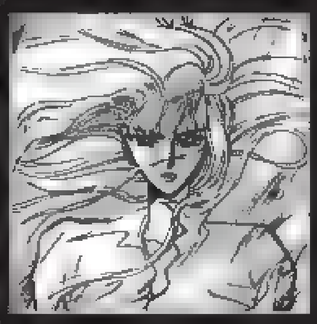
KOTORI MONOU
Fuma's little sister, and one of Kamui's closest childhood friends. The workings of the prophecy brought her life to a tragic end.



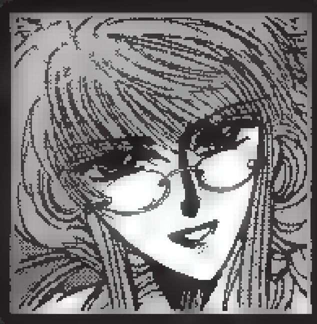
KYOGO MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's father, he was the priest of the Togakushi Shrine and guardian of the Sacred Sword.



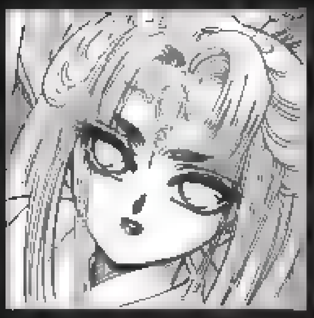
SAYA MONOU
Fuma and Kotori's mother. She gave up her life in order to bring the Sacred Sword into being.



TORU SHIRO
Kamui's mother. A descendant of an ancient family of "Shadow Sacrifices" who have the power to avert the misfortunes of others, she sacrificed herself to protect Kamui.



TOKIKO MAGAMI
Toru's younger sister and Kamui's aunt, she died giving birth to the second Sacred Sword.



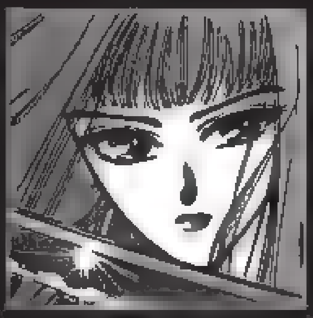
HINOTO
A blind seer who is able to read the future through dreams. She has foreseen the end of the world, and her vision places Kamui at the heart of the cataclysm to come.

SOHI & HIEN
Hinoto's loyal attendants.

DAISUKE SAIKI
A young wind user devoted to Hinoto, he's Seiichiro Aoki's nephew.

KANOE
Hinoto's younger sister, she also possesses the ability to see the future through dreams. But the destiny that she wishes to bring about is different from the one that Hinoto desires.

THE SEVEN SEALS



ARASHI KISHU
Raised in the Shinto shrine of Ise, she fights by summoning a sword from the palm of her hand.

SORATA ARISUGAWA
A priest from the Mount Koya Buddhist temple complex, he has sworn to protect Kamui with his life.

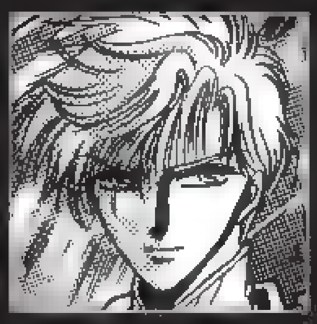
SEIICHIRO AOKI
A harried manga editor with a gentle demeanor, he is also a wind master and a skilled fighter.

YUZURIHA NEKOI
The youngest of the Seals, she is always accompanied by her dog spirit, Inuki, that only she and others with psychic powers can see.

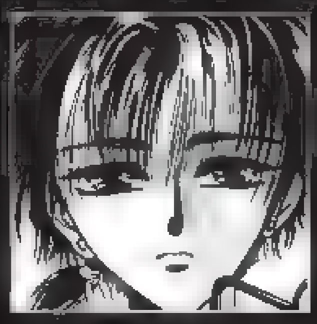
KAREN KASUMI
A fire user who works in a soapland (massage parlor), she endured a traumatic childhood because of her powers.

SUBARU SUMERAGI
The 13th generation leader of the Sumeragi Clan, the most powerful users of *onmyo* magic, he shares a deep bond with Seishiro Sakurazuka.

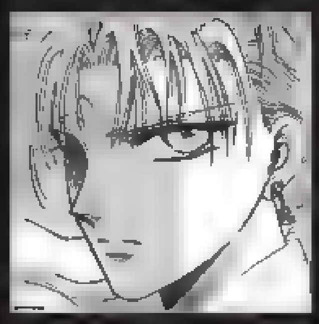
THE SEVEN ANGELS



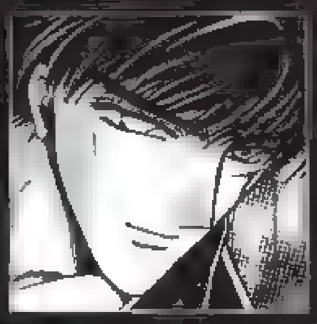
YUTO KIGAI
Working as a civil servant by day, he is a water master whose playful demeanor hides a cold-blooded essence.



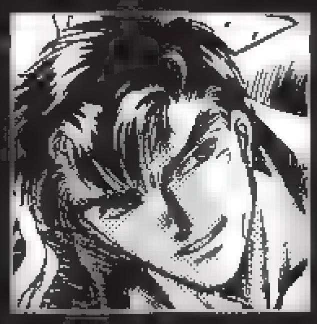
SATSUKI YATOJI
A genius with computers, she shares a special bond with the machine she built, the "Beast."



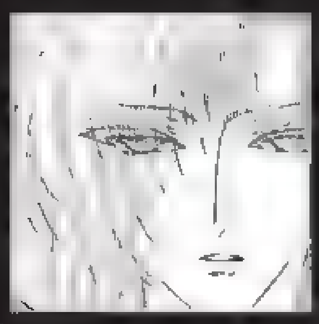
NATAKU
A genetically engineered human androgyne, Nataku wields a ribbon-like length of cloth as a weapon.



SEISHIRO SAKURAZUKA
A skilled *onmyoji*, he is the Guardian of the Cherry Blossom Barrow, last in a line of hereditary assassins. His fate is intertwined with Subaru Sumeragi's.



KUSANAGI SHIYU
Physically imposing but gentle at heart, he is extraordinarily attuned to the natural world. An active service member of the Japan Ground Self-Defense Force.



KAKYO KUZUKI
His powerful dreamgazing abilities manifested when he was very young, but after losing someone important to him, he became an invalid.

NOTES ON THE TEXT

FAMILIAR

The word translated as "familiar" is *goho*, which in Japanese is written with the characters for "protect" and "dharma." As the name indicates, *goho* are spirits or minor deities that protect and serve high-level Buddhist practitioners.

KEKKAI

A magical barrier or shield. In the world of *X* there are two different types of kekkai. The first is the individual barrier fields that the Seven Seals create in order to protect their surroundings from damage during a battle. The second is a huge magical ward that protects the entire city of Tokyo.

ONMYODO, ONMYOJI

Onmyodo, or the "way of onmyo," is a school of magical practice based on the esoteric philosophies of Yin-Yang and the Five Elements (fire, earth, metal, water and wood). *Onmyoji*, or "masters of onmyo," are adepts who can use their magic to perform rites such as exorcism, purification, and divination.

SHIKI

Commonly called *shikigami*—but shortened to *shiki* in *X*—these are spirits or minor deities summoned to serve *onmyoji*. Shiki can be conjured in different ways, but the most frequently depicted method is to bind them to a paper talisman infused with spells.

SHINGON BUDDHISM

One of the major historical sects in Japan, it is considered to be one of the more mystical branches of Buddhism. It places a greater emphasis on religious experience over doctrine, and a significant aspect of its practice is the transmission of esoteric teachings. For these reasons, it is also referred to as "Esoteric Buddhism."

his character is the "captive man" type, his leg is bound with a cord. The white cloth draped over him I painted by hand, not with an airbrush. If I'd used an airbrush, the texture of the material would have shone differently.

PAGE 7

1997 September, *X* Volume 10, Cover Illustration
Paper: BB Kent
Lines: PIGMA Graphic ink pen
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Copic marker

I needed something white for the image, and I thought magnolia blossoms would be the perfect thing [*laughs*]. There was a large magnolia tree near my house that was very beautiful. This one is growing in someone else's yard, though [*laughs*].

PAGE 185

1998 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue,
Title Page Illustration

This illustration is unusual in that Kamui appears against a blue background. And I painted his eyes violet. Although I did a similar piece later, this time when I was painting I really went extreme with the blue theme. I penciled the rough outline on copy paper and then transferred it to another sheet of paper where I did the inking and coloring.

PAGE 186-187

1998 July, "Midsummer School Festival"
Exclusive Calling Card Set Illustration

This is the illustration for an exclusive calling card set that could only be bought at the "Midsummer School Festival" event. I knew the image was going to be shrunk down radically, but I still used long shots of four characters [*laughs*]. The people who got hold of these calling cards must have thought the characters were tiny—especially their faces [*laughs*]. I drew them in groups of two for the two calling cards. Their clothes look similar but are different in color, and the forms are slightly different too.

PAGE 188

2002 March, *X* Original Offset Print

This image was going to be used to create an offset print, so I put a lot of effort into making it. I was doing a *Chobits* piece simultaneously, so the building and altar in the background of the two illustrations are actually the same, as are the candleholders and small ornaments. However, the building in the *Chobits* piece is nice and intact while the X one has been destroyed. I wanted to create matched illustrations that could be enjoyed together as well as separately.

PAGE 1

1995 *Monthly Asuka* April Issue, Cover Illustration
Paper: Kent
Lines: Holbein Color Ink (Special Black)
Color: Dr. Ph. Martin's Color Ink, Liquitex

I thought it might look cool to see a lady's kimono draped over a boy's high school uniform. Although the effort of drawing all those blossom outlines really tired me out [*laughs*], I think the kimono ended up looking nicely vibrant for it.

PAGE 2

1999 *Monthly Asuka* September Issue, Bonus Poster

This illustration was for a poster, so the original size was quit large. Because of that I was a little worried about using only Copic markers to color it, so except for the hair and eyes I used color ink instead. The gold parts were done with tempera paint. At that time Nekoi was wearing a kimono with a very distinctive pattern, so I kind of used that as a motif, although I didn't copy it exactly. I wanted the kimono in the illustration to have a Yuzen look to it, so I painted it without drawing outlines first. And that way the camellias in the kimono also look different from the ones in the background.
[Ed. Note: Yuzen is a style of kimono dyeing that was developed during the Edo era.]

PAGE 3

2001 August, *X: An Omen* Package Illustration

X: An Omen was an OVA released before the TV anime series. It's about Kakyo's dream, so he takes center stage in the illustration. Kamui is included as a figure representing that omen. This is the standard-issue Kamui with wings. For some reason he's wearing a CLAMP Academy uniform coat. The coat never appears in the actual manga, but you get to see it in full color here [*laughs*].

PAGE 4-5

1999 *Monthly Asuka* April Issue,
Title Page Illustration

Another image of Kakyo as a captive—then again, he's pretty much been a captive his entire life anyway [*laughs*]. I wanted to create an effect as if there were fireflies flying about, so I left as few white areas in this illustration as possible. Ohkawa told me to make it seem as if he were wearing a thin, black silk summer kimono, and that turned out to be difficult. After giving it some thought, I decided to use an airbrush. The background was done with India ink.

PAGE 6

2002 *Monthly Asuka* July Issue, Title Page Illustration

The colored paper butterflies scattered on this illustration are ones I'd used on an earlier piece. The image is one of Kakyo thrown down and abandoned on the lavender petals of wisteria. Because ordinary BB Kent Paper to create a wall-like look before I started drawing on it. The uniforms were done with color ink, to give them a woolly texture. After I shaded in all the colors I placed another quick layer of modeling paste over them; you can see the colors through the paste, which creates an interesting effect.

PAGE 371

2000 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Cover Illustration

This is an illustration of Fuma placing his hand upon a pane of glass and looking through the window. I like drawing close-ups of a single character since those are easy to draw [*laughs*]. I wanted the rain and the parts of the window in contact with Fuma's hand to have a different texture, so I used a gloss-type thinner for the Liquitex. It hardens when it dries and creates a nice translucent texture.

PAGE 372-373

2000 *Monthly Asuka* January/February Issue, Mail Order Calling Card and Calendar Illustration

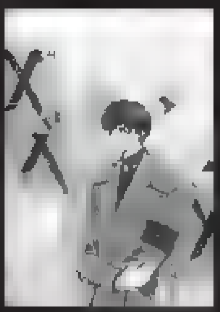
This is actually a very small illustration. I inked it mostly using Copic markers and did the cherry blossoms using acrylic gouache afterwards. When I draw these two guys I always put nothing but cherry blossoms in the background—they would go to waste if I included something superfluous. In this one I had the cherry tree capture Subaru. Even though Japanese cherry trees don't have vines [*laughs*].

PAGE 374

2003 *X* TV Anime DVD and Video Trading Card Premium

I happened to have a blackish, dark purple ink at the time, so I used that for the background. The gold flecks are rhinestones produced for nail art; I stuck them directly onto the illustration. I did a lot of work on the background to give it a rich feel, so I mainly used Copic markers for Seishiro to balance that out. Now that I think of it, this illustration may seem a little grotesque since it looks like he's gouging out his own eye.

PAGE 375



1999 March, *X* Volume 12, Cover Illustration

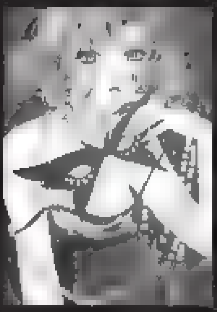
This is the back-cover illustration for volume 12 of the manga series. The "X" on the front cover of this volume was silver. I had used grey on volume 4, and I wanted to make this volume brighter than that, so I had Subaru wear gray clothes against a white background. I wanted him to be up against a wall. The posters on the wall are torn-up bits of an English newspaper that I pasted on then drew "X"s over them.

PAGE 189

1998 *Monthly Asuka* August Issue, Bonus Poster

I drew this one on Watson Paper, which has a rough surface. I put down a background wash of Lumocolor sepia first, in order to brighten up the center of the illustration. Fuma's wing was done with color ink, and I used an airbrush for Kamui's wing in order to give it a translucent look. Ohkawa had asked me to create an illustration that could be viewed in either orientation, so I created a symmetrical composition divided by the water's surface in the center.

PAGE 190



2001 *Monthly Asuka* December Issue,
Title Page Illustration

Karen has a lot of sexy shots like this [*laughs*]. I think I did the background mainly in red color ink, with a matte finish to it. I colored her hair and lips with Copic markers, which are great for when I want to give something a glossy texture. The illustration would have looked vulgar if I'd used the Copics too much, though, so I only used them for the important parts.

PAGE 191

1998 September, *X* Volume 11, Cover Illustration

This is the back-cover illustration for volume 11 of the manga series. The title on the front cover was in dark lilac, so I gave the image a purplish hue. Karen has a Christian background, so she's often drawn together with a cross. The lilies are a reference to the Holy Mother. Karen usually wears sexy clothes, but she's dressed rather conservatively here.

PAGE 369

1999 *Monthly Asuka* February Issue, Cover Illustration

Back then my illustrations weren't as soft as they are now [*laughs*]. Here the glass Earth is made to look like an egg about to hatch. I used an airbrush for the background and the egg. After inking Kamui, I did the wings and the rest with an airbrush, which meant that I spent more time fussing with masking tape than doing the actual coloring. I'd peel a section off and color it, then put the tape down on a different place, peel another section off and color it. I had to watch the amount of ink I was using too, so it was really time-consuming.

PAGE 370

1998 *Monthly Asuka* November Issue, Cover Illustration

This is another older illustration. I remember it being a pretty easy piece to work on. I purposely drew it so that Kamui's face could not be seen. I put down a layer of modeling paste over

PLANNING AND PRESENTATION BY **CLAMP**

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COMIC	**MOKONA APAPA** (CLAMP)
ART DIRECTION	**MICK NEKOI** (CLAMP)
ART ASSISTANCE	**SATSUKI IGARASHI** (CLAMP)
COVER ILLUSTRATION	**MOKONA APAPA** (CLAMP)
BOOK DESIGN	**NANASE OHKAWA** (CLAMP)
SPECIAL THANKS	**SEIICHIRO AOKI** **KEIICHI SEGAWA** **NOBUKO KOMAZAKI** **KOUICHI KAWATA** **KAZUHIKO IKEGUCHI** **MADHOUSE**
VERY SPECIAL THANKS	**ALL OUR READERS**

X

THEIR DESTINY WAS FOREORDAINED

X

STORY AND ART BY **CLAMP**

3-IN-1 EDITION

VOL. 4

VIZ MEDIA EDITION

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ADAPTATION	**YSABET REINHARDT MACFARLANE**
TOUCH-UP ART & LETTERING	**ANNALIESE CHRISTMAN**
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